

THE ORACLE

WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
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Election enters second week

By Laura Robinson
News Section Editor

As the 2000 presidential election controversy entered its second week, citizens around the country and at WS had something to say about it.

Students expressed concern about the election and the time it has taken to tabulate the votes and make a decision.

"I am very mad that they're taking so long," said junior Meghan Horan. "It makes me question the value of democracy in America."

Others said the country conducted a beatty pageant rather than an election.

"I think this was really an election of personalities more than it was an election of issues," said junior Kevin Park.

This year, many seniors were able to exercise their right to vote for the first time.

"I voted for Gore," said senior Emily Krauss. "If Bush wins, I'm leaving the country."

The election has gone down to the wire, with the election hinging on controversial Florida votes and absentee ballots. The results were postponed for recounts in Florida.

Locally, winners and losers were easier to spot. Republican George Allen defeated Democratic incumbent Charles Robb by a four percent margin for a Virginia Senate seat. Allen, the former governor, ousted the last Democrat holding statewide office in Virginia.

Democrat James Moran defeated Republican Demaris Miller for the 8th District race in the House of Representatives. In the 11th District, Republican Tom Davis defeated Democrat Mike Corrigan.

Virginia went with its usual conservative base in presidential

balloting. George Bush received 52 percent of the popular vote while Gore got 45 percent.

In the WS mock election, however, the results were different. Gore won with a small margin, receiving 44 percent of the vote while Bush got 41.8 percent. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader received 7.9 percent of the school's vote.

This mirrored the US popular vote. Many observers say that the closest presidential election ever demonstrates the problems in this country's political system.

"I feel this election has given rise to constitutional issues that we as a voting populace need to consider," said history teacher Allison Kopkau.

"The original intent of the framers in establishing the electoral college may be in need of revision. It is certainly in need of discussion."



Al Gore won the popular vote in the presidential election.



George Allen won a Virginia Senate seat.



George Bush carried Virginia and its 13 electoral votes.



Jim Moran has been elected to the House of Representatives.

Marching Spartans keep the beat

Drum line finishes undefeated while music draws accolades

By Laura Robinson

News Section Editor

The Marching Spartans march to a different drummer this year—one with a winning beat.

In September, the band placed fourth out of seven its class and won best percussion at the Herndon Showcase of Bands. And the Spartans have continued their success.

"We're doing really well. We sound very strong this year. We started off doing OK at Herndon and kept it up," said junior Erin Sikes.

The Marching Spartans swept their class at the Mount Vernon Invitational Marching Band Classic on October 14. They won first place band, first place drum line, first place color guard and first place marching drums.

The drum line has been the most consistent.



Jeanee Ehlmann

Marching Band adds spirit to the Homecoming atmosphere. The Marching Spartans have had unprecedented success.

SGA promises more pep, changes

By Nayna Gupta
Inside Story Editor

With almost eight months of the school year remaining, this year's SGA officers are working toward a plan to help the time fly by.

"We want pep to last longer, and we want more school involvement," said officer Boone Clayton.

"We want to make

everything fun." Until recently, the SGA's main focus has been preparing for Homecoming week. Though most of the Homecoming events were similar to previous years, the SGA did introduce new activities like the bonfire and Olympic-style games during lunch. The officers used these new ideas in an effort to increase involvement and spirit during the week.

"The lunch games got a lot of spirit going," said officer Beth

Argentieri. "The bonfire wasn't as good as it could have been, but it should definitely be continued next year as a tradition."

While the SGA officers did organize most of the events for the week, they also received input from students in the leadership class. With this help, it was easier for them to carry out their plans.

"We all worked with the officers. They had everything organized and planned out, which was really impressive,"

said junior Kat Kehler. "The whole week ran smoothly."

Though Homecoming is over, the officers already have new ideas and goals that they hope to accomplish by the end of the year. One issue that concerns many students and faculty members is the amount of trash in the school hallways and bathrooms.

"I think it would be great if SGA worked with other clubs to solve the trash problem in our

SEE SGA PAGE 8



Maggie Atteberry

Junior Ginny Callaghan holds the restroom door for a friend. SGA plans to make changes to the bathrooms.

WHAT'S
INSIDE
THE ORACLE



8 HOW
MUCH MONEY
DID YOUR
CLASS RAISE AT
SPARTANFEST?



10 TEENAGE
STRESS: FIND OUT
WAYS TO SURVIVE
HIGH SCHOOL.



19 WHAT
THANKSGIVING
TRADITIONS DO
YOU HAVE?

Meaning of Thanksgiving is hidden; not lost

Thanksgiving. Ever since elementary school we were told the story of the Pilgrims and the Indians on this special day; we heard how they cooperated together to prepare and enjoy a feast during the Pilgrims' first year in America. It was a day about celebrating and giving thanks for their good fortune.

Today, Thanksgiving is supposed to be about the same ideas: working together and giving thanks. But these ideas are hidden somewhere among the turkey, the snacks, and the football.

Today, Thanksgiving is more about taking time off from work or school to relax and have fun. Most people still spend the day with their family, partying

and watching the football games. They eat, watch the game, talk a little, eat some more, watch more

football, and then gather around for dinner so they can stuff themselves full of food. Most Americans feast on

Editorial

the traditional Thanksgiving foods of turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. Some things will never change.

It is doubtful that the Pilgrims pictured their descendants celebrating by watching a bunch of sweaty men tackle one another on the football field. But this isn't necessarily a bad thing; the meaning of Thanksgiving isn't lost, it's just changed.

The holiday has become more casual, and is a chance to relax and enjoy time with one's family. No matter how much it's commercialized, as long as we all remember to take a few minutes to be thankful for everything that is good in our lives, the most important aspect of Thanksgiving will never be overlooked.

No dishes to wash means something to be thankful for

By Theresa Rupp
Managing Editor

Most people gather around their dining room table for Thanksgiving, but my family gathers around the Ritz Carlton's table. Starting in 1987 when I was four years old, my parents began a family tradition that makes every fourth Thursday in November a date I can truly be thankful for.

Raised an Air Force brat, I have lived in and visited many places in the United States. My parents, wanting to look on the bright side of this sometimes difficult lifestyle, have always cherished the historically exciting benefits that new cities bring.

They came up with this traveling Thanksgiving tradition not only for the extra educational advantages, but simply because we were not always living near our relatives and we needed something special for us to do together as a family.

So each Thanksgiving morning we pack up our things, get into the car, and drive to some "secret location" that my dad has picked out months in advance.

Letter to The Oracle

Dear Oracle Staff:

I am writing in response to Katie Walker's article in the October 27 edition of *The Oracle*. I am in total agreement with Miss Walker's article. I have been at this school for four years, and each year the bathrooms have become more and more of a problem. Just the other day, an occurrence happened to me that I found appalling.

I was in my third period class and I had run to the office to pick up some papers. We weren't doing much in class at that point so I asked my teacher if I could go. Passing by one of the restrooms on the way to the office, I decided I would stop in and use it really quick. I was amazed to find out that there was no toilet paper in any of the stalls. Stunned, but not totally shocked since this had happened several times in the past years, I went on to the office. I picked up the papers and as I was walking back, I really had to go. So I made a detour and took the long way around to my class, once again, stopping in yet another restroom. The first stall didn't have a lock so I took the second stall. There was no toilet paper. Going to the third stall, there was no toilet

When we arrive at our hotel, we change

into our "formal dining attire" and go to the dining room to enjoy turkey and mashed potatoes that only a world class chef can prepare. Some people say that they only like their grandma's pumpkin pie, or their mother's stuffing recipe, but I'd take someone in a tall white hat cooking my food any day of the week, let alone Thanksgiving.

They came up with this traveling Thanksgiving tradition not only for the extra educational advantages, but simply because we were not always living near our relatives and we needed something special for us to do together as a family.

So each Thanksgiving morning we pack up our things, get into the car, and drive to some "secret location" that my dad has picked out months in advance.



Bulls won the championship that year. The next day after Thanksgiving, it's time to make all the history teachers in America proud. Usually (could we say it's by chance, Dad?) the cities we spend Thanksgiving in have some historical value

I like Williamsburg, Virginia; Newport, Rhode Island, and St. Louis, Missouri. But sometimes we push it—like the year we spent in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The educational benefits of taking a tram ride through the oversized Hershey chocolate-cooking oven are definitely debatable.

But when I was younger, it was just so cool to be someplace I had never been to before and seeing new things like the seals playing at the Monterey Aquarium in

paper, and even in the handicap stall, there was no toilet paper. I was revolted.

I went back to class with a few minutes left in the period. I told my teacher about this incident and he, being the generous person that he is, helped me out by going to the teachers lounge and grabbing a roll of toilet paper for me to take to the bathroom.

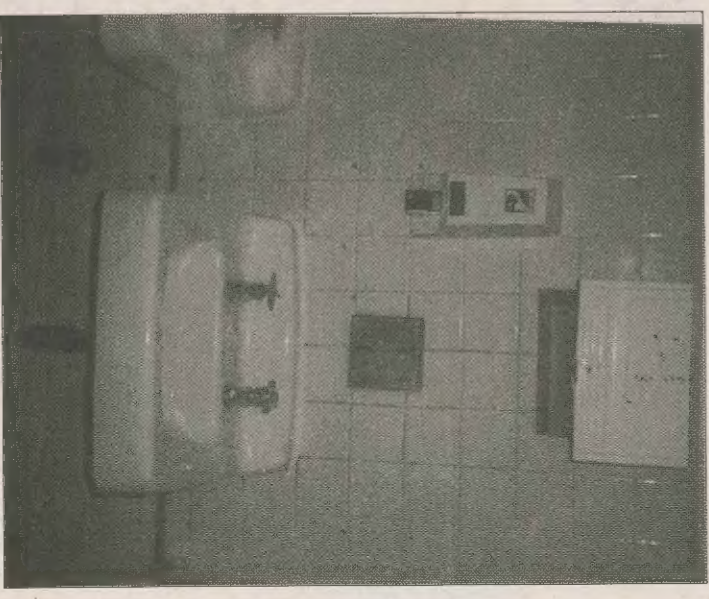
This incident would not have mattered so much to me, except that I, as a senior, have never had this much trouble with the restrooms. I know that there are more than 2000 students at this school and it amazes me how, with a whole committee of janitors, we cannot make the restrooms usable for us.

As quoted by Katie in her opening paragraph, "There is no excuse for the poor upkeep of the bathrooms in our school. The conditions are disgusting." I profusely agree with this statement. You would think, being one of the most prominent counties in the nation, we would be able to maintain the cleanliness of our restrooms.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concern.

Sincerely,
Jill A. Rupp, 12

The condition of the bathrooms at WS is an ongoing problem.



Tara Davis

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West Springfield
High School
6100 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152
(703) 913-3953

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West Springfield High School

Censorship restricts freedom

By Jenny Braudaway
Viewpoint Editor

The First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech." This includes music. What many people don't know though is that, despite the First Amendment, music censorship is entirely legal.

The law only applies to the government and its agencies, and not to community/religious groups or even record companies. Essentially, anyone who wants to suppress music because they think it is obscene or inappropriate can do it.

Just because it is not necessarily a violation of civil rights, music censorship is unfair to both the artists and the public. It is okay for a painter to paint a bloody, violent scene on canvases, but it is not okay for Eminem to rap about a bloody, violent scene through music. Same concept, different way of expressing it. People choose to go to the art gallery and view the painting, just as they choose to buy Eminem's new album.

America is a free country, or so we are told. The public has the right to make their own decisions. I think Eminem is incredibly talented, but I also think he's crazy. I choose

to listen to his music because I can see the meaning behind the lyrics and because the music is good. I would not want to listen to a "clean" version because not only does it take away from the meaning, but it reduces the singer as an artist as well. If that is the way Mr. Mathers chooses to express himself, so be it. That is his right and that is what makes him original.

On the other hand, the music of the rap group Insane Clown Posse, despite their talent, is so extremely offensive I choose not to listen to it. The point, however, is that it's my choice, and if it weren't, I would have a big problem.

Walmart, one of the biggest establishments that practices music censorship, will not even see records of some artists because it goes against "family values." But if these families with values aren't even capable of selecting morally acceptable music for themselves, then their values can't be that strong. And what about all the other people who shop at Walmart? What happened to their choice?

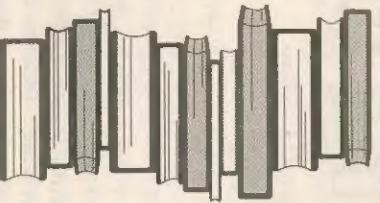
Nobody has the right to tell people what they can and cannot listen to. Music is an easy scapegoat for societal problems, but not a plausible one. And foul language is not a tangible danger. If you think that it is and you decide

Play a sport and save yourself a lot of stress

By Nikki Werking
Oracle Editor

Now that I'm applying to college and looking for scholarships, I realize there's something I should have done that I didn't do. I should have learned how to play a sport with a ball and learned how to play it really well.

I stay up until at least midnight every night, trying to finish my homework for my three AP classes after three hours of cheerleading practice. By the end of high school, I will have taken a total of five AP classes, nine GT classes, and only one non-academic course. I have worked my hardest



during my four years at WS to maintain a good GPA. I am a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, Quill and Scroll, *The Oracle* staff, and the varsity cheerleading squad. This is also my 10th year with the Girl Scouts.

I keep myself busy with these activities and tough school curriculum all just for the chance of being accepted at a college like UVA or UNC. I'm not even worrying about trying to earn an academic or service scholarship. Even with all of my work, I simply haven't done enough to get one.

The other day, I realized something. If I were some all-star soccer player or basketball player, I wouldn't have to worry about these things. Some of the best universities in the country would be offering me full scholarships to play for their school.

Haven't taken many challenging classes? That's OK! Don't have a stellar GPA? That's OK too! Your SAT scores

aren't the best? Test scores aren't everything! As long as you can kick a ball really well, the most prestigious schools will pay for everything, even if you're lacking in all the other required criteria.

On NCAA's sliding scale for athletic eligibility, you only need a SAT score of 820 if your GPA is at least a 2.5, a C+. If your GPA is only a 2.0, a C, however, you will be required to score at least a 1010 on the SAT. Your GPA is calculated by averaging your grades from 13 core courses, including 4 English classes, 2 math classes, and 2 science classes.

So, after living for 17 years in the shadow of athletics, watching them get all the recognition and special treatment, I see the pattern continuing. America simply values athletics more than academics. Sure, you may only be a great athlete until you're 25 and out of shape, but you wouldn't be smart forever either, right? We're living in a great society; we really know our priorities.

Spartan Spotlight

What's your favorite Thanksgiving dish and why?



"Ham, because it tastes good. Leftover sandwiches are good, too."

—Brian Dorsui,
freshman



"I'd hafta say pumpkin bread. I've never had it, but I like new things."

—Ben Mould,
sophomore



"Cranberry sauce. I have to love the cranberry sauce because I love the way it jiggles."

—John Donovan,
senior



"Turkey, because it's good meat. Plus, after you eat it, you can go sit on the couch and take a nap."

—Tom Drew,
senior

—Compiled by Russ Waddell



God is a chocolate addict—and so am I

By Michelle Poling
Special to The Oracle

I am convinced that God is a chocolate addict. No other power could have created a recipe for something so delectable that, with even the smallest taste, could set all of Heaven's glory dazzling on my tongue.

Luckily, He has chosen to share the very source of His addiction, spreading about little pieces of Heaven in every form imaginable to all of us here on Earth. Milk chocolate, white chocolate, Swiss chocolate, semisweet chocolate, dark; I have sampled and savored them all. Whether in good times or bad, chocolate has always been a part of me.

While sitting on the kitchen counter helping my mom bake chocolate chip cookies, I experienced my first tastes of chocolate—the semisweet variety. As time passed and my love for these tiny morsels matured, mom often became frustrated as more chocolate chips found their way into my stomach than into the batter.

One day, after disobeying several of her warnings to “stay away from that bowl,” I found myself banned from the kitchen with mom’s assurance that the piece of

Hershey’s Dark Chocolate that she had slapped into my hand would taste precisely like my beloved chips. I have to admit, I had my doubts, but as mothers usually are, she was right. This mysterious, dark, smooth substance became my new infatuation.

After I had discovered that there was more than one type of chocolate in the world, I began devouring it in all its majestic forms. Candy bars, brownies, fudge, cake, ice cream, frosting, artificially chocolate-flavored diet food: I consumed any form of chocolate I could get my hands on. One of my favorites soon became Mrs. Field’s Chocolate Chip Cookies. I remember looking forward to trips with my mom to Springfield Mall, where the object of my desire was waiting, nestled in a soft, warm, cookie pillow, in a little red shop. With all their many kinds of chocolate to choose from, I always followed my mother’s direction to purchase the semisweet kind because they were “what you like.”

Well, somewhere around age 13, as most teens have a tendency to do, I decided that whatever my mother said, I believed the opposite. Although mothers usually disapprove of this attitude, it was imperative to the discovery of my next chocolate stage. I found myself buying

A hefty
cost-
benefit

ratio
Or, they should
have danced all
night, right?

By Hollis Alexander
Special to The Oracle

I thought formal occasions in high school were supposed to be fun. But after my daughter’s experience, maybe not.

When my daughter first told me about Homecoming, I was excited for her. Then she told me I had to leave the house.

“Huh? Excuse me? Leave my house? I don’t quite understand.”

She explained to me that her “soon-to-be-date” was coming over to ask her out by decorating her room with balloons, a sign, candy, and roses. I replied that that was a cute idea, but maybe a little much.

“A little much? Mom, Suzy was asked with 17 dozen roses and a silver ring. And you think a couple of balloons and roses are too much? Gosh, mom, get with it.”

“Well, sorry, honey, but when I was young the boy just walked up to the girl and asked her.”

“Yeah, well that was like centuries ago.”

Well, he asked my daughter to Homecoming, but not the way she expected. She started crying and pouting when she saw that he had just given her a sign and a rose.

“I think he did a nice job.”

“Of course you would think that—you’re my mom. Now I don’t even know if I want to go with him. Maybe someone can ask me better.”

I was shocked by my daughter’s response, but thought that she would handle it. She said “yes,” and then we began to shop.

On our list of five zillion things to do for Homecoming was to start looking for a dress. Let’s just



Segal/Majestic

Homecoming means memories—and lots and lots of money, too.

say if the price tag wasn’t big enough, the dress didn’t fit. My daughter had no problem choosing the dress that would put a dent in my wallet. Worst of all, the dress didn’t even look all that great. But she insisted. I thought it was just a little school dance, not Cinderella’s ball.

After what seemed like months of preparation for a wedding, the day finally arrived. My daughter had her Gucci dress and her \$100 hairstyle. She looked like a million dollars and ended up costing that much, too. I nearly had to take out a home equity loan to pay for everything, but she got what she wanted.

Next, we went to take group pictures and I felt like I was at a circus. Thirty-two kids with all their parents, relatives, friends, pets. Everyone in town was there. The group finally shipped off in their BMWs and Mercedeses. I drive a Camry. Somehow, I feel like there was something wrong with that picture, but that was beside the point. I would hear how it ended in the morning.

Maybe I should have slept through the next day, because what I heard nearly gave me a heart attack. The dress that cost me an arm and a leg tipped. The

the milk chocolate chip cookies instead of those embedded with semisweet, and found out that, for all those years, my mother was simply trying to protect my virgin tongue.

Never before had my taste buds experienced anything so erotic. Divine ecstasy so sinful and yet so pure. I had to find out if there were any other chocolates as invigorating as this one.

I tried every brand: Hershey’s See’s, Dove, Russell Stover’s, Fanny May, Ghirardelli. My search even turned international, as I sampled Godiva, Belgium Chocolate, Lindt Truffles, Swiss. I had perceived my love in every aspect and was now more committed than ever.

Over the years, my obsession with chocolate also grew to become a solace, and I still can’t get enough. Chocolate has befriended me through breakups, makeups, parties, boredom, holidays, rainy days—each variety satisfying its own occasion. No brand or variety has ever left me disappointed and I am sure that my beloveds will remain true until death do us part.

And what better way to arrive in Heaven than death by chocolate?

Parents perturbed living with a pig

By Ethan Greenblatt
Special to The Oracle

My room isn’t very clean right now.

It’s never been clean. It sort of hovers between a state of war zone and natural disaster area. And it’s not just because of those odd corpses in my closet that we haven’t bothered to do anything about since we moved in; it’s because I’m lazy. Really lazy.

I’m not lazy about anything else in life. I just try to save my energy for more important things.

There’s a laundry basket that’s been in the corner of my room ever since I got it, and there hasn’t been a single piece of clothing that actually found its way inside that basket. Instead, the clothes somehow end up forming a perfect circle around the basket, bowing before my laziness.

Not that I see a problem with that. It’s much easier to pick clothing off the floor than go through the hassle of sitting through a closet. It’s just much more efficient to have what I call my “horizontal closet.” I just pick what I like off the floor, do a quick smell check, and I’m off. If the article of clothing doesn’t quite pass the smell check, it goes into my “to be reviewed upon a later date” pile, which will be judged on cleanliness once I get around to doing my laundry.

While this system has worked perfectly for years, there’s been one problem the entire time: my

parents. My mom has gotten to the point where she’s told me she wouldn’t mind me dropping out of school as long as I keep my room clean. Pops, on the other hand, calls me from work to ask me when I’ll be cleaning my room. Every conversation we have on the phone is identical:

“Hey, dad, how’s your day going?”

“It’s going fine, son, how’s your room?”

“The usual. I’ll get around to cleaning it tonight.”

It’s not that I’m not grateful to my parents. I owe them for everything I have. It’s just that the state of my room is something personal to me; it defines who I am as a person. At least that’s what I tell myself to justify not cleaning my room. While my mother tells me how much she already feels sorry for my future wife, I know she’s only saying that because she loves me.

When my mom throws up her hands and tells me how happy she’ll be once I’ve gone to college so she can finally have a clean house, I know it’s because, well, she wants to have a clean house. But I know I don’t do enough to show how grateful I am for everything they’ve done for me.

I’ve thought about buying thank-you cards or writing a song, but I think I’ll do it by making the ultimate gesture—cleaning my room. Tomorrow.



Melissa Lipman

Last, but not least

The more things change, the more they remain the same, as 'Little Argentieri' takes her final WS bow

By Beth Argentieri
Special to The Oracle

My family of six lived in the same house for 15 years for one reason: its location in the district of the area's most acclaimed and desirable public high school, WS, Home of the Spartans. As a sixth-grader, a very bored and obnoxious sixth-grader, I watched my eldest brother graduate from WS. As an eighth-grader, longing to be a *mature* high-schooler, I marveled at my second brother receiving his diploma. As a freshman, unaware of how soon I would don a cap and gown myself, I watched my youngest brother leave wonderful WS to the last Argentieri.

Although there are a plethora of special things about WS—including the teachers who, depending on the brother, have various reactions to seeing "Argentieri" on the class list—there is one special place that, in disgust or fondness, every Spartan remembers: Senior Rail.

Since elementary school, I heard stories involving this legendary rail. Unpleasant stories that involved freshmen being

showered with the saliva of seniors standing above them at "The Rail." Stories of courageous seniors who made the 10-foot descent from atop the rail to the floor below.

Administrators of decades-long reigns can recount the instances of chocolate syrup covering the rail, waiting for the hands of unsuspecting underclassmen to be soiled with the brown, sticky mess.

After all the hype, I was disappointed to discover that Senior Rail is 43 feet of 2.5-inch black metal, which wraps around a stairwell; exactly identical to the three other railings in the school. But while the structure of this bannister is strikingly unimpressive, in the eyes of a 14-year-old freshman, the seniors who lounge on it during their free time are quite intriguing.

I can remember on my route to French I, "bumping into" senior boys at the Rail who might know me as "Little Argentieri." My freshman year, the seniors seemed so old to me that I thought it would be an eternity before I had to worry about graduating. And though the classes, days,

and weeks often crawled by excruciatingly slowly, the years of high school darted past me as fast as the cars turn out of the Spartan parking lot after seventh period. Now, walking confidently to my French IV classroom, I pass the Rail and see the kids I have known for two, six or even 12 years hanging on the Rail. Sometimes I stop and picture my brothers and their classmates in the same hall, on the same Rail.

It's funny how still childish I feel after those years of revering seniors as "young adults." And as I encounter all the things a senior does that once seemed so exciting, or scary, or difficult, I hardly notice the natural vicissitudes of the end of my adolescence.

When I graduate this year, if that senior slump doesn't hit me too hard, I will leave WS, 12 years after the first Argentieri enrolled.

And though it is just a piece of metal, it will be nice when my brothers and I are all real adults and will each have our own memories of the same building, the same football stadium, the same impossible government teacher, and that same Rail.



I can remember on my route to French I, "bumping into" senior boys at the Rail who might know me as "Little Argentieri." My freshman year, the seniors seemed so old to me that I thought it would be an eternity before I had to worry about graduating.

When East met West at Disney

By Nikki Werking

Oracle Editor

In 1994, my family took my 76-year-old grandmother on a trip to see aliens, man-eating sharks, and Mickey Mouse.

We called my grandmother "Pau-pau," the Chinese word for you mother's mother. Pau-pau was the kindest, most generous person I have ever known. Whenever we went shopping together and I saw something I liked, she would offer to buy it.

"You like that?" Pau-pau asked in broken English. "I buy for you. You want it?" I almost always refused politely, but many times she heckled me and bought it for me anyway.

Pau-pau grew up in rural China. She did not attend school until the age of 10, and she was lucky to be able to go at all. My grandmother struggled to find the money to afford her next meal.

Pau-pau spoke little English, even after living in the United States for 40 years. Life was often a hardship, and learning about her hard times helped me appreciate the privileges of my middle-class life—especially such things as vacations at Disney World.

Pau-pau didn't know what to expect on this trip. She had been to amusement parks before, but had never gone on any rides. Knowing this, my mother made Pau-pau go on every ride with us, from Space Mountain to Splash Mountain. She even made my grandmother run from the gate to the next ride, to avoid the long lines.

How did mom convince Pau-pau to go? She use a simple technique: She said, "You're coming," and didn't tell her what the ride would be like.

Splash Mountain was an interesting experience. You sit in a large boat, gently floating through a series of scenes depicting Bre'er Bear and Bre'er Fox, until you reach a 20-foot drop at the end. As we climbed into our boat, my mother grabbed a large plastic bag that she brought with



Joyce Werking
Erika, Nikki and Pau-pau greet the dolphins in Orlando.

her, and thrust it over Pau-pau's head. My mother knew she wouldn't like the splash of water coming up.

"Oooooo!" Pau-pau said in her rural Cantonese dialect. "What's happening? What are you doing?"

"Trust me, Ma," my mother said. "You'll need this."

Despite the surprises, my grandmother's favorite ride was the "ET" ride at Universal Studios. The attendant asked for your first name. At the end of the ride, ET personally bid us farewell by name. Pau-pau found it amusing.

At the end of the week, Pau-pau told my mother, the only other family member who spoke Cantonese, how glad she was that she came on the trip with us.

"Never in life did I think a place like this could exist," she said. "This is beyond anything I could ever dream in my wildest imagination. When I was growing up, we didn't have electricity, running water—we had nothing. And to think this is all just for entertainment."

Pau-pau died three years later. I will never forget Pau-pau, her kindness, her generosity, or her look of surprise as my mother put that garbage bag over her head.

'Shocking' experience

4-year-old enters realm of scary science

By Amy Whipple

Oracle Editor

In my neighborhood, there is a family in which four of the six members are quadruplets. I baby-sit these (usually) delightful girls while their mother works from her in-home office.

One of our favorite things to do is walk to the local park; it has the epitome of park apparatuses: two slides.

The slides are bright orange plastic, famous for being slippery when going down and sticky when going up. This is the kind that makes hair suddenly stand up straight, a fascinating thing to a pre-schooler.

It is a fall afternoon when one of the quads learns what really makes their hair stand on end.

I climb the slide to straighten out an argument between Claire and Lauren. I offer to ride down with Lauren and then with Claire. They like the idea of riding down slides with other people almost as much as they like pushing them.

Lauren and I make it to the bottom in record time. Claire changes her mind and says she would rather push me down than ride with me. Lauren will catch me at the bottom.

I climb back up the ladder and Claire has a silly grin on her face. I sit on the familiar plastic and she gives me the biggest shove she can muster with her skinny arms. I go, and sure enough, Lauren is at the bottom—right in front of me. I can hear

and weeks often crawled by excruciatingly slowly, the years of high school darted past me as fast as the cars turn out of the Spartan parking lot after seventh period. Now, walking confidently to my French IV classroom, I pass the Rail and see the kids I have known for two, six or even 12 years hanging on the Rail. Some-

times I stop and picture my brothers and their classmates in the same hall, on the same Rail.

It's funny how still childish I feel after those years of revering seniors as "young adults." And as I encounter all the things a senior does that once seemed so exciting, or scary, or difficult, I hardly notice the natural vicissitudes of the end of my adolescence.

When I graduate this year, if that senior slump doesn't hit me too hard, I will leave WS, 12 years after the first Argentieri enrolled.

And though it is just a piece of metal, it will be nice when my brothers and I are all real adults and will each have our own memories of the same building, the same football stadium, the same impossible government teacher, and that same Rail.

Claire coming down behind me. I reach for Lauren's hands so we can move out of the way before we get attacked.

CRACK!

I feel but also see the bolt of static electricity I have passed from my hands to Lauren's. I cringe, and Claire runs by me to get back to the top of the slide. Kristin collecting acorns, and Meredith is lost in space. I look down at Lauren, her eyes roll up to mine and she gives me a look of complete confusion and betrayal.

"You hurt me."

I apologize and ask if she's ever been shocked before. She looks at me as if I have three heads. I wish I hadn't said anything. How do I explain static to a 4-year-old? I hardly understood it in physics at 17. I think of a preschool-friendly definition.

Lauren rubs her hand and waits for the answer I don't have.

She nods sadly as I explain the crinkly noise we heard while going down the slide and how it goes from person to person. I think she wants to play with her sisters, instead of hear me explain what hurt her.

Lauren continues to rub her hand.

"It still hurts."

In the strange world of science, I am the enemy. She knows that as long as I stay away, her hand won't hurt. I'm almost as crushed as she is, but I know we'll both get over it.

We soon hear an oncoming storm, and it is time to run home. We've had enough electricity for one afternoon.



Amy Whipple
Lauren, Claire, Kristin, and Meredith love to play on the orange plastic slides.

I want to be a superstar model

By Jen Berne
Weekend Assistant

Turn to the left, turn to the right, and strike a pose! The modeling business catches the attention of many students.

"I haven't done any real 'shoots' or runway activity, but I've called around just to see what modeling is all about," said senior Jimmy Madden.

Getting into the business is not as simple as it sounds. According to Madden, many agencies can ruin a person's hope of any kind of career. Commonly, agents and model seekers specifically tell a potential client three things: what is wrong with their appearance, how they can ultimately spend thousands of dollars perfecting it, and whether or not they are model material at all.

"My first appointment consisted of

nothing except for negative opinions of my image," said Madden.

Depending on where you seek opportunity, few have had better luck. Senior Cyrus Mostaghim recently was selected as one of the 30 Young Teenagers of America to attend an open-call convention in DC.

"I had to fill out some forms and basically just stand in front of the representatives while they critiqued me," said Mostaghim. "Then finally they invited me to the convention in DC, where hopefully someone will decide to sign me."

Climbing to the top in this business is not an easy obstacle to overcome. Junior Ashley Hoffman, said she has had a few unfavorable projects.

"In the beginning of all this, my jobs primarily consisted of health and educational photo layouts. I've also done



Above, Tanari Vazquez, left, and sophomore Jessica Penzari, right, strut the Seventeen runway. Right, models of the December 1999 Seventeen fashion show pose for a group picture.



Joyce Working

some work for a few educational production companies."

Being a model has its downsides. The hours are sometimes long and the working conditions can seem intolerable. Often times, it is hot and there is virtually no movement allowed at all.

"Although it seems tough, it's very rewarding to do projects that are for a good cause like AIDS and other charity work," said Hoffman.

P e o p l e attempting to really succeed in this business must be willing to sacrifice their time and energy.

"I've been told that there are three main keys in being truly successful," said Hoffman. "They are luck, talent, and most importantly, drive."

Students learn to cope with loss of a parent

By Caitlin Marvin
Managing Editor

To prepare children for death, the Dogon tribe in West Africa performs special ceremonies called fox funerals after the death or disappearance of one of these beloved animals. The children in the tribe learn a special song and dance around a tiny coffin containing the imaginary fox. This ritual prepares them for the inevitable deaths of loved ones they will face in their village and in everyday life.

But there is no such set ritual to prepare for the death of a pet, friend or even parent in everyday life in the U.S.

"I think the hardest part of it all though was the funeral," said senior Kristin Hamilton. "I had never even been to one. So, it was horrible that my first was my own mother's."

Hamilton's mom died suddenly in 1998 from a brain aneurysm.

"I don't know if there is one thing I did to deal with it. It all happened in the matter of 48 hours, and for the following months, it felt like I was living in a nightmare. She was here one minute," said Hamilton, "and gone the next."

Like Hamilton, senior Maggie Van Camp went

through the same ordeal just a year before. After an 11-year fight with lung cancer, her mother died in 1997.

"My mom died when I was a freshman," said Van Camp. "She hid [the cancer] well at first, but I slowly got used to seeing her sicker and sicker. I think it was the most horrible thing I have ever seen in my life."

It is hard no matter how a parent dies, whether it

"It all happened in a matter of 48 hours, and for the following months, it felt like I was living a nightmare. She was here one minute and gone the next."

happens in minutes or years. The thing that matters most is how a person recovers.

"It all happened so fast and I think I was just in denial," said Hamilton. "I just had to pick up where my mom left off."

Since her mother's death, Hamilton has had to take over all the things her mom had to do like driving her 15-year old brother, and 11-year old sister around, cooking, and cleaning the house.

"No one says it but if I wasn't there, I don't know

WS teachers work hard to earn advanced degrees

By Melissa Lipman
Entertainment Editor

At WS, it's getting harder and harder to tell the teachers apart from the students.

Several members of the WS faculty are in the process of obtaining either their master's degrees or their doctorates — while they're teaching classes.

Margaret Mey, a US and global history teacher, is working on her master's degree in education at the University of Virginia.



Lauren Sheffield WS reading teacher Marlene Darwin instructs her class from a book.

"I started out getting my master's in administration," said Mey, "but then I decided that I didn't want to leave the classroom yet."

Mey noted that it takes a lot of work to balance being a teacher with being a student at the same time, but she pointed out that going back to school has its good

points, too.

"It's really good to put yourself back in the shoes of being a student," said Mey.

Marlene Darwin, a literacy teacher who's working on her Ph.D., also felt that her schooling helped her performance in the classroom.

"I think I can bring more to the actual practices in the classroom," said Darwin.

Having a master's degree also opens more opportunities to teachers, especially for those who want to take on administrative jobs.

"I don't see myself staying in the classroom forever," said Hollt Wolter, the English department chair who is working on her master's in administration at George Mason University. "I want to advance my career, but I also want to keep working with kids."

Earning master's degrees and doctorates also gives teachers a salary increase, however, this raise is fairly small in relation to their monthly salaries and the costs of getting the degree.

"Almost everyone you find in education is generally not in it for the money," said Brad Davis, a government teacher.

Davis, who is working on the last stages of his doctorate in education administration supervision, noted that master's degrees are beginning to be expected of teachers and required for administrators.

"[We're] moving towards every teacher having a master's," said Davis.

Some teachers see having a master's degree or a doctorate as something that will give them more



Lauren Sheffield English and film studies teacher Hollt Wolter instructs her class.

credibility, especially in the eyes of parents. Jennifer Beach, an English and journalism teacher, concurred with that idea. She also says one of the reasons so many teachers at WS are working on higher degrees is the school's record.

"I think that because the school does have a good reputation that it does attract ambitious people," said Beach.

Teachers said that one of the driving reasons for putting in the time to get another degree was the desire to learn.

"As a teacher you are always willing and wanting to learn," said Wolter. "Not only are [teachers] always teaching, they're always wanting to learn."

David Smith, the principal at WS, agreed with that idea.

"I admire the people who are doing that," said Smith, who has a master's from West Virginia University and a Ph.D. from George Mason University. "I think that often times teachers are just students at heart."

Able to overcome handicap

Athlete competes in Paralympics

By Jenn Carlson
Viewpoint Assistant

John Register competed in the Olympics, and he only has one leg.

Actually, Register competed in the Paralympics which were held preceding the real Olympics, this year in Sydney.

The Paralympics is a worldwide competition for people with disabilities and are considered "parallel games" to the Olympics. This year, more than 4,000 athletes from 125 countries competed in Sydney. Some are blind, some are missing limbs, others are in wheelchairs, but they have one thing in common: the will and strength to overcome a disability and bring pride and honor to their country.

Register worked to compete in two track and field events: the 100-meter dash and the long jump.

As a college student, at the University of Arkansas, Register was a star runner in the 4 x 400 meter relay and the long jump. He later qualified for the 1988 Olympic trials in the 110 meter hurdles and in the 1992 games for the 400 meter hurdles.

During a training session in May of 1994, Register landed hard and his knee hyperextended.

"I couldn't think of not being able to walk; I'd rather wear a prosthesis," said Register.

The doctors told him he had



severed his popliteal artery and soon, the leg had to be amputated after a failed attempt to repair the artery. The solution was the use of a prosthesis, an artificial replacement for a missing body part.

"Once I got my prosthesis, I was hesitant to use it, but I kept training," said Register. "The day before I went to my first track meet with my prosthesis, I was training on the track at West Springfield."

To get back into shape and build the strength to run, Register turned to swimming. During his first few swimming sessions with Mark Stanley, Register had a new goal in mind: Go for the 1996 games as a Paralympic athlete.

"I started swimming for physical therapy and 18 months later, I found myself on a swimming starting block at the 1996 Paralympic games in Atlanta. I remember looking down the lane and thinking to

John Register qualified for the 1988 and 1992 Olympics. Doctors amputated his left leg in 1994. The Springfield resident went to the 1996 and 2000 Paralympics.

myself 'I was in the wrong sport of my life,'" said Register on his website.

Now, Register has returned to focusing on his first love, track and field, and went to Sydney having tied the US record in the long jump and holding the rank of third and sixth in the world in the long jump and the 100 meter dash. Register returned home with a silver medal in the long jump, something he has worked hard to accomplish for years. This is an example of the rewards of true dedication.

"The first time I held it, I started crying," said Register.

After years of sacrifice and loss, Register had finally experienced triumph over an obstacle.

Linz learns 'physics' of statewide politics

By Joey Tinsley
Oracle Staff Writer

Newly-elected Senator George Allen asked physics teacher Ed Linz for advice during his close race with the incumbent, Senator Charles Robb.

Linz got a call from the Allen campaign a few weeks ago. Allen's press secretary asked Linz to fly around the state and talk about the ways Allen's governorship had helped Linz as a teacher.

Allen's campaign used Linz and other Virginians during the campaign to settle a bet, of sorts, with Robb, who was challenged by Allen in a debate to name "one real person" who was helped by his policies. Linz was one of seven "regular people" selected by the Allen campaign to talk to voters, and he focused mainly on education, health care, and the military.

As part of the Allen senate campaign, Linz flew to airports in Norfolk, Richmond, Roanoke, and Northern Virginia on a six-passenger airplane with the former governor and other citizens.

The Allen campaign designed these press conferences for television coverage, and the constituents used by the campaign talked for two to five minutes, then answered questions. Linz said the Allen campaign did not tell him what to say during these stops, and that the appearances were "unscripted."

Linz talked about Virginia's SOL program, which he believes to be vital for the future of education in Virginia.

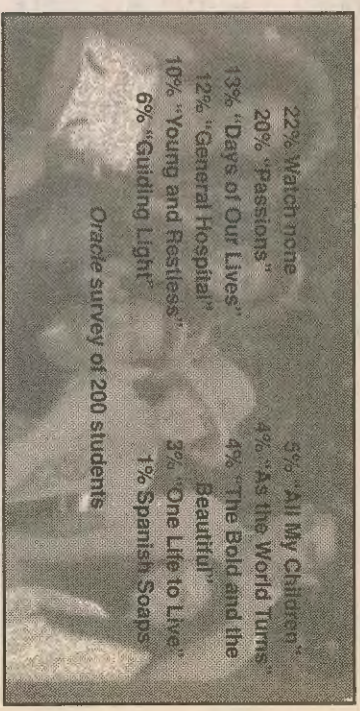


Maggie Anthony
Ed Linz campaigned for newly-elected Senator George Allen.

"There is far greater accountability for the performance of your athletes as a coach than there is for your students as a teacher, because if your athletes do not produce you will get fired. If your students do not produce you will not get fired," said Linz, who believes SOL's strengthen teacher accountability.

Television stations and several newspapers, including *The Washington Post*, covered the press conferences. Linz said his first taste of politics was a positive one.

"I had a good time," said Linz. "I got to sit and talk to the [former] governor on the plane rides for about an hour. We talked about everything from sports to politics."



Out of 200 students polled by *The Oracle*, 'Passions' remains the favorite, although 22 percent said they watch no soaps at all.

Students lathered up over favorite soaps

By Emily Morris

Features Assistant

He's tried to kick the habit, but he's hooked. For up to three hours every day, he can't stay away.

Soap opera junkies form electronic friendships with Ethan Crane from "Passions"; Victor from "The Young and the Restless"; and Erica Kane from "All My Children."

And as the world turns, so do the lives of people like senior Brian McLain around the daily dramas.

"I really get into the show 'Days of Our Lives.' Once you see one or two shows and learn the plot, you have to know what happens next," the varsity football player says. "My mom watches it and tells me what happened that day."

Some fans tape the shows so they won't miss anything.

"I tape 'Days of Our Lives' because it is so good I can't stand

to miss it," said freshman Carlos San Diego. "I watch it as soon as I get home from practice." Not all students are fanatics, but they follow the plot line. "When 'Sunset Beach' was on, I missed it sometimes so I would go online to see what happened that day," said sophomore Marie Addai. "It was easy and fast for days when I was short on time, I spent five to 10 minutes on the computer reading the plot."

Not all students are hooked on soaps—in fact, almost one-quarter of students surveyed by *The Oracle* don't watch them at all. Junior Emily Baskin, is not a fan, and refuses to watch them. "I can't stand [soaps] and have never watched them and never will," said Baskin.

"One thing I don't like is how you have to remember everything that happens in fictional characters' lives and if you miss one show then you are

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Spartanfest raises school spirit and money

Class councils participate in hopes of a good time

Amy McKeever
Inside Editor

Hamburgers, soft pretzels, popcorn, and cotton candy. WS sold all of these things and more at the 2000 Spartanfest to raise money for various projects.

Every fall the PTSA sponsors Spartanfest, a school-wide fundraiser. Many clubs, teams, and organizations man booths at Spartanfest to earn money. Among these are the class councils, from the freshmen through the seniors. Most of the classes started with low expectations of Spartanfest.

"We really don't anticipate too much of a profit," said junior class sponsor Ann Lam prior to Spartanfest. "We want to do it anyway because it is fun."

The juniors sold cotton candy and provided the moonbounce at Spartanfest. Each of these items required rental fees, which added up to \$400. The class of 2002 knew before Spartanfest that with such high costs for rentals, it would be unlikely for them to raise a lot of money. However, the juniors raised \$1000, with the rentals paid the class actually walked away with \$600.

However, not all of the classes had to deal with the issue of rentals. The seniors sold sodas, lemonade, water, hamburgers, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and also operated the dunk tank. Normally, such an undertaking would require some kind of payment beforehand, but the seniors found a way to almost completely avoid spending too much money.

WS will lose Kramer to the police academy

Mike Waldron
Oracle Editor

Four years ago, Bart Kramer came to WS as an administrator, and his son, Scott, came to the school as a freshman. At the end of this year, they will both leave WS.

While Scott will graduate, his dad will retire after a long career in the school system.

"It has been nice having my dad work here," said Scott, "because I can always find him if I need money."

In addition to serving as his son's cash fund, Kramer has also been in charge of

science, math, business, and the arts during his four years at WS. His job as a WS administrator is just the last in a long line.

Kramer started his career as a math and physics teacher at Robinson in 1971, but he worked his way up the system.

He has served as teacher, science specialist, personnel director, administrator, and even principal. But this only begins to describe the list of jobs he has had.

Kramer has had several other jobs on the side, including coach, employee at Best Buy and Montgomery Wards, park ranger, referee, SAT instructor, and most recently, police officer. So it is no surprise that when he retires from the school

"Thanks to Mrs. Wangsgard [mother of senior class officer Sam Wangsgard], most of our supplies were donated by different companies," said senior class sponsor Maria Clayton. "It's unreal what she [Wangsgard] does."

Without having to pay for all of their supplies at Spartanfest, the senior class truly benefited. The profits from this fundraiser will help them achieve their goals of paying for prom and for the class gift to the school.

"We made more money than we expected," said senior class officer Amanda Thornburg. "This will help us get ready for an awesome prom."

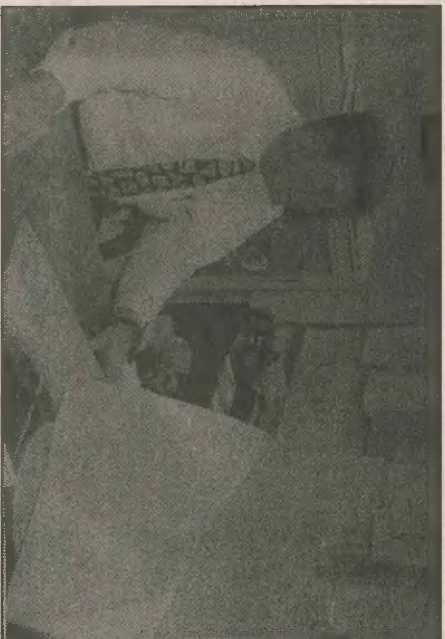
While the seniors were motivated to profit from Spartanfest because of prom, WS underclassmen had different objectives. The sophomore class had set out this year to beat their Spartanfest profit from last year, which was less than \$100.

"Last year we didn't sell that well, so this year we picked something we thought people would like," said sophomore class secretary Lisa Marvin.

The class of 2003 sold hot chocolate and soft pretzels this year at Spartanfest and made around \$200, doubling their previous earnings and reaching their goal. They attribute this change to the items they sold.

The freshman class also attempted to pick a popular treat to sell at Spartanfest, finally settling on popcorn. However, unlike the other classes, the freshmen had no real fundraising motivation.

"Spartanfest isn't really one of our major fundraisers,"



Russ Waddell
Dr. Bart Kramer has been a part of WS and its community for a long time and is now prepared to retire from the school system and be a full-time police officer.

system, he is not really retiring. In the summer, he will begin work as a full-time police officer.

"When I retire, I'd like to relax," he said. "But I don't know if you can relax as a cop."

Kramer could have retired last year, but he decided to stay for Scott's final year. All of Kramer's children have gone to WS, and he lives just two miles away from the school, so his ties to WS are strong.

"He's a great guy," said Principal Dr. David Smith. "He has been a great addition to the staff, so I'd like to see him stay."

But it is not just administrators who will miss Kramer.

"The school is losing an awesome guy," said senior Clayton Williams. "Kramer is the best."

At the end of the year Kramer will leave WS for the police academy, so he may not have time to celebrate his retirement. But on his new job, he will bring the same attitude that has enabled him to have such a long and respected career in the school system.

"I try to stay positive," said Kramer, "because I enjoy life too much. It's great."



Russ Waddell
The junior class raised money for their prom with a moonbounce that attracted children and teenagers alike. They were one of the most successful classes.

said freshman class sponsor Erik Lind. "We just wanted to provide something nice for the people."

The class of 2004 ended up with a small profit compared to that of the other classes, but with a positive outlook.

"We made about \$60 at Spartanfest," said freshman class president Theresa O'Hanian, "but we really learned how to work together as a team."

Promises made by SGA

FROM SGA PG. 1
McKenzie. "They've fulfilled most of their other promises."

The officers also plan to beautify all school bathrooms.

"Each bathroom would have a theme and we would paint the walls and possibly even put targets in the urinals for a little sport," said SGA officer Brian Fahy.

By cleaning and decorating them, the officers hope people will be more likely to take care of the bathrooms. They plan to have a club called the "Poity Patrol," which will be in charge of ensuring each bathroom stays clean.

In addition to instituting the "Poity Patrol," the officers are eager to continue school spirit throughout the year.

Officers want to hold a winter formal in early January. Though past SGA officers discussed winter formal, this year's officers promise to make it work.

"We will publicize the winter formal a lot. In the past, people have lost track of things during winter break. So we need to make sure people still know about it after the break is over," said SGA officer Clayton Williams.

Other new ideas include setting up a bulletin board that will centralize all the announcements and advertisements for clubs within the school so students will have one place to look for extracurricular activities.

The SGA officers, through their original ideas and goals, hope to make the rest of the year as memorable as possible.

Clayton said, "I want all the students, freshmen through seniors, to remember this year as fun, that's the most important thing."



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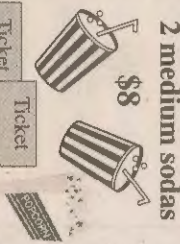
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Band makes WS proud at Mt. Vernon

FROM BAND PAGE 1

and entertainment. This year a new policy was put into place which only allowed the best bands to join the marching band.

"The enrollment has changed because the policy has changed," said Band Director Don Leanes. "The kids there are basically the kids who want to be there. The work ethic's good and everybody's real talented."

Most marchers are satisfied with the places they've received at competitions and the work they put in.

"Marching band was a lot of hard work, but the end result was always satisfying," said freshman Samantha Lee.

The band's last competition was the VBODA (Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association) Marching Festival. The Marching Spartans put in another fine performance and received an Excellent rating.

"This was the first season for many things," said junior David Kofahl. "It was

really exciting being a part of a first place Drum Line and a first place band."

The success the Marching Spartans have experienced this year has never been experienced in recent WS marching band history.

"We've never swept an entire category like we did at Mt. Vernon," said Leanes. "This is unprecedented."

Fast Facts about Marching Band:

Drum majors are Jennie Tuchi and Wendy Pedder.

The Drum Line was undefeated in all competitions.

At the Mt. Vernon competition earlier this year, the Marching Spartans swept every category they were part of.

The Spartans received an excellent rating at the VBODA Festival.

News of the Weird



A rental truck parked outside a federal building causes panic.

Parking causes bomb scare

Gary Jacobsen of Omaha, Neb., accidentally gave officials an unwanted reminder of the Oklahoma bombing. Jacobsen was in a rush for a meeting at a restaurant and couldn't find a place to park. He eventually parked across the street in front of a federal building with his warning lights on. His large yellow moving truck resembled that of the truck used in the 1995 Oklahoma bombing. The building was evacuated and the truck was searched. Jacobsen came out of his meeting facing a 30-minute lecture from the head of police and a \$13 ticket.

Ketchup turns green

Heinz has put out a new ketchup. It is green instead of the normal red. The company expects the first year's supply of the new ketchup to sell out in less than 90 days.



Ketchup bottles now hold green goop that can draw.

—Compiled by Amy Steed

Neighbor snags free tickets

Edwar Celardo tried to score free Giants tickets, but his plan failed. Four tickets to the Giants vs. Cowboys game were delivered to his house for his neighbor, but he thought he would just go instead. After buying new tickets to the game and seeing her neighbor in her old ticket seats Jaann Koslosky became suspicious of Celardo. Hopatcong, NJ, police were informed of Celardo's actions and he now faces punishment.

Elderly criminal caught

An 80-year-old Florida man has been arrested for robbing a bank. Since the 1930s he has escaped from prison 18 times. The judge sentenced him to 13 years behind bars this time. He supposedly stole \$5,600 to pay the bills of a dying friend. The judge called him dangerous despite the fact that he uses a walker and was caught in a police chase going 45 mph.

Elementary punishment given

Jamie Vannostran of Akron, Oh., has been punished by a local judge for allowing her husband, who was avoiding the police, to live in her attic for a period of time. She told police that she didn't know where her husband was; when they found out that he had been hiding from them right above their heads they were furious. Vannostran's punishment took her back to her elementary school days. She had to write "I will not lie to the police," 100 times.



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Overcoming AP madness

By Mike Waldron
Oracle Editor

Advanced Placement classes may prepare students for college life, but they also give students one facet of college life they could do without—stress.

"I think AP classes have more stress than regular classes," said senior Erin Zoller, who took three AP courses last year and is taking four this year. "But they will get me used to the work and pace of college classes."

The fact that AP classes require a great deal of writing, reading, and analyzing is something that attracts some students as they look to prepare for college.

"I know AP classes have more stress, but they give me skills that will help me in college," said senior Pack Landfair, who has also taken seven AP courses at WS. "I think AP classes force me to take notes and study, so they will prepare me for college."

In general, AP classes require more note-taking

and studying than regular classes, and they also show students the importance of time management. If students fail to manage their time properly, the work piles up, and so does the stress.

"AP classes are truly college level courses," said Guidance Director Eleanor Saslaw. "The only way to get through them is to put in the time and effort. If students want to reduce stress, they may need to reduce their number of AP classes."

Principal David Smith also believes that stress goes up as the number of AP classes increases.

"I suggest that students take as many AP classes as they can handle," he said. "But I'm a bit concerned when I see students taking five, six, or seven AP classes."

Administrators and guidance counselors may warn students of the stress caused by AP classes, but for Landfair, the advantages of taking five AP classes this year far outweigh the disadvantages.

"It's tough," he said. "But it will pay off in the future."



Lauren Sheffield
Senior Becky Parsons sticks her nose in a book in order to study for her AP class.



Shan Shi

Elizabeth Wilcox, senior, flexes her muscles while in her room at Governor's School for acting. In addition to pursuing her interests in acting and dancing, Elizabeth is able to handle four AP classes and applications for college.

"If you're so stressed out that all you ever do is work and all you ever think about is work, it's not good for you."

—Elizabeth Wilcox, senior

Maintaining a perfect balancing act Wilcox juggles a busy schedule with school

By Priyanka Tandon
Business/Systems Editor

Elizabeth Wilcox performs in Personality, has four AP classes, and is in the fall production of "You Can't Take It With You," but still manages to keep her cool.

Wilcox is a busy person, which gives her a high stress level.

"Until senior year I was never really stressed even though I had a lot of homework and activities, I was able to get it all done," said Wilcox. "But this year I really have to prioritize."

This year Wilcox has chosen to take part in Madrigals and Personality. Wilcox also dances for a studio, which takes up four to five hours of her time.

Personality is a class that meets before school. Madrigals is a select music class, during the day for which Wilcox is a student director.

"We [Madrigals] are doing a 'Feast of Carols' in December, which just takes a little time here and there, but it adds up," said Wilcox.

Wilcox also has to allot time to the National Honor Society (NHS) for her duties as secretary. She and the other officers run NHS together.

"Elizabeth is extraordinarily self-motivated," said NHS sponsor Jamie Morris. "She is one of those people who does her homework because she wants to learn, not because she will get into trouble if she doesn't."

Wilcox's extracurricular

activities often leave her with little time for homework for her classes, which include AP Calculus BC and AP Government.

"Four APs take more time than I had expected," said Wilcox. "Sometimes I just go home and look at everything I have to do and am so overwhelmed that I can't even start. Somehow it all works out, I am not sure how."

In addition to her activities Wilcox is busy applying to college and trying to find time for her friends and relaxation.

"I don't have free time, but I make free time. It's a mental health thing. If you're so stressed out that all you ever do is work and all you ever think about is work, it's not good for you," said Wilcox. "Even if it

means sacrificing some of your work, I think it's a real necessity to have free time."

All of Wilcox's activities can sometimes add up.

"Sometimes she takes on too much and I worry," said mother Carrie Wilcox. "But she usually manages everything."

Juggling homework and extracurricular activities can be hard, but Wilcox thinks she has a lower stress level because of the way she feels about them.

"I don't do these things just to get into college. For the most part, I do everything because I love it. You can't be stressed out if you're doing something you love," said Wilcox. "The key is balance, you have to balance time for yourself and time for everything else."

Finding the solution to letting off steam

By Theresa Rupp
Managing Editor

Stress sinks, and sadly Arid does not always work. From conventional to crazy, there are a million stress relieving methods out there. Just don't stress out trying to find the one that is right for you.

Stress is a nasty thing, and it can be found in any high school around the world. Going to school, doing homework, and participating in after-school activities all bundle up and cause a lot of pressure. But lots of people realize the negative side effects of stress, and have come up with some seemingly "sure ways" to combat it. The trick is finding one that actually works.

Lots of ways to relieve stress are expensive, which seems a little ironic because money, how much we have or don't have of it, causes a lot of stress in itself. Many of the ways are kind of strange, as well.

Psychotherapist Sara Denning Abbott, for example,

came up with an "I-Therapy Walk" walking, you are clear your mind of and focus on good the things in your positive. Just know trying it isn't enough because to get the this experience, you her books and i videos as well. Right That will be the da a book on how to all means, try it it will help.

Robert Lawren the President of Str Inc., has a different wacky way to literally. His book, Power of the Drum drumming aw "combines enetel drumming with ca imagery exercises lasting and power stress." Who knew your hand could do You can also ta route and see if Tranquilon, fo

Senior JB Santiago takes time for a stress-relieving massage at the rest stop in Springfield Mall.



STRESS LIKES JACKS

Myers keeps his cool

By Angela Florino
ETC Editor

As another stressful day begins, Zack Myers pulls out his extra-large planner and looks at his tasks for the day.

"His assignment notebook is not your ordinary assignment notebook. It's huge and it has all his activities written out so he can check it before he commits to anything," said Key Club sponsor Joy Brinckman. "He's a visual learner and he is very organized."

Forget about his assignment book; Myers is no ordinary teenager. He has more responsibilities and duties on his plate than most high school kids. These activities, honors and duties include Key Club President, Boy Scout Eagle, German Honor Society, senior class officer, Varsity swim team, Mr. Spartan nominee, Fairfax County library employee and Cappie critic. Along with these, Myers takes AP courses and is involved in the youth groups at his church.

In order to complete his Eagle Scout project, Myers built a welcome sign for Lake Accotinch that included a bulletin board listing the park's activities. This project completed Myers' certification of an Eagle Scout. During this same week Myers was confronted with duties that pertained to the production of the assembly and other activities during Homecoming week. As president of the

Key Club he had to organize the skit, come up with a creative routine for Mr. Spartan and help run Spartan Games.

"Homecoming week was by far the most stressful week of my life," said Myers.

"I definitely have stress and it's not easy to deal with but I try to think what it will be like once I am completely finished with everything and how good I will feel."

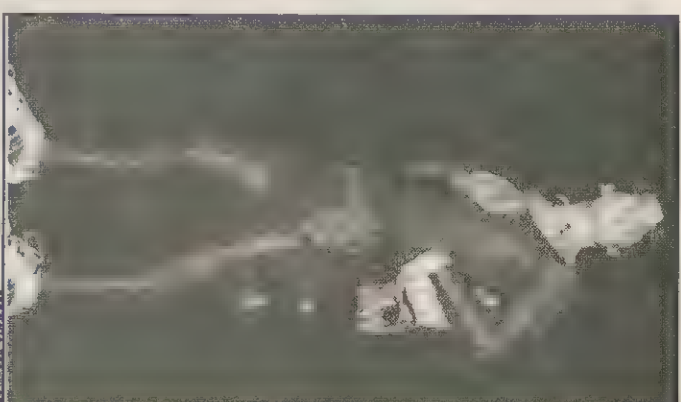
Another task that Myers faces is being able to, prioritize. He has to put his academics and school-related activities at the top of his list but he still finds time to do the less stressful things that are also important.

"He has a lot of activities and he really has to budget his time. He is an active guy and likes to be involved in and he's pretty good at handling things," said Myers' mother, Dianne.

Myers is organized and even though he had many things to do he found time to ride in a 35-mile bike race with his older sister, Theresa, in October. Two weeks later, Myers marched in a political parade with John Warner, Tom Davis and George Allen dressed as the Republican elephant.

"I like to experience lots of different things and try new things every chance that I get," said Myers.

Every day brings new responsibilities for Myers and he enjoys being so busy. As a brother to five, he also has



Zack Myers, senior, performs as Ace for last year's Homecoming skit.

responsibilities within his family.

"Zack grew up in a big family and he is devoted to all his brothers and sisters. He's always there if you need him," said his mom. "He has great people skills and is an excellent person, son and brother and I am very proud of him."

What Works?

Maggie Atterbury
message with a



idea called "Steam." While supposed to help you relax and concentrate, an even more natural experience would be to get a "Body Sudation" which is a medicated steam bath. The stress will supposedly "lift off your body" and never come back. Maybe our homework should get this too—it can lift out of our backpacks and never return. Tell that one to your teacher.

But there is also some obvious ways to get rid of stress. Listen to music, take a nap, and try not to leave everything until the last minute are good tips to try.

"The Healing Man" says that when I'm stressed out, I just turn on some music and dance. It makes me happy and relaxed," said senior Michelle Difilippo.

So whatever you choose, keep in mind that most of your stress will be over in about seven months when school gets out. And if all else fails, go out and buy some Aritid.

Dealing with college rush

By Jen Schonberger
Features Editor

Okay! I have exactly one month to complete three applications—that means essays, too. Trying to find time to finish my applications, write well-written essays for those applications, send my transcript, get recommendations, and take the SAT I and SAT II becomes very stressful for me.

I had always heard about seniors stressing over college applications, but I've found it's different when I'm the senior who's applying.

Ever since ninth grade, college has always been on my mind, whether it was in the forefront or not. The pressures of college were really brought to my attention during the second semester of my junior year.

Since I'm a senior I am feeling the anxiety of applying to college. Since the beginning of my senior year there has been this rush.

I'm stressed a lot of the time, anyway. On top of all of my other obligations comes what I have been building up for the last four years of my life, my resume for college.

Knowing that I'm about to make the decision, or rather the admissions office of the school is going to make the decision, which will affect the next four years of my life is a little nerve racking.

Another part of the application process is the essay portion. Like Mrs. Holman used to tell me, a good essay won't get you in, but a bad essay will keep you out. Therefore, writing good essays could make a difference. It's hard trying to think of creative ideas for many of the questions.

There's this other burden known as the SAT that is a constant struggle for me. If it were up to me, I would do away with those pesky SATs altogether. I think grades as well as classes are a good judge of any student, but others don't share that opinion because they are good at the SAT.

I have done my part over the past years. I have completed three of my applications now, so some of the stress is off, but not for long because the process isn't done yet. The next big step: the job application.

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Shakespeare is staying alive in the DC region

Local theatre and library aim to educate and entertain area high school students

By Amy Whipple
Oracle Editor

This year, Helena will have another chance at Lysander as the new season of the Folger Shakespeare Theatre starts.

Four plays, "The Tempest," "Twelfth Night," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and "As You Like It" will be performed between October and June in respective order.

The theatre, located on Capitol Hill next to the Folger Shakespeare Library, is set in Elizabethan style. The stage was replicated for the 1999 movie "Shakespeare in Love."

"It's absolutely beautiful," said senior Jill Rippey. "I haven't been to the library, but the theatre is amazing."

The Folger Library houses the world's third-largest collection of Shakespearean paraphernalia. Scholars come from all over to gain access to the rare materials possessed by the library.

The High School Fellowship Program offers 16 high school juniors and seniors

from the metropolitan area a 12-week interdisciplinary program. The agenda includes seminars and workshops, focusing on how Shakespeare is moved from text to the stage.

Senior Zak Angel is one of the select few who gets to study with this group. Angel, a member of the WS theater department, went through an application and interview process with more than 150 other students to get his spot.

"Taking classes has introduced me to new ways of thinking and learning about Shakespeare," said Angel.

The Library is active with the community with year-round events. Every April there is a children's festival in honor of Shakespeare's birthday. For adults, there is an annual spring gala with festivities. Other classes besides the High School Fellowship Program are used to get high school students interested in the art of Shakespeare.

The theatre also has an annual competition for secondary schools. DC

area schools have to be invited to participate in the activity.

"We've sent a letter letting them know we're interested," said theater teacher Mary Jo Levesque. "I hope we get invited; it's quite an honor."

Theater Arts 2 students are the main participants in the competition from WS, although some of the more experienced actors in the school often get involved as well. The competition's strict rules are hard on the students.

"It's going to be hard because even if you are one second over the time limit you're automatically disqualified," said junior



Jane Ebermann

The Folger Theatre, near Capitol Hill in DC, has one of the world's largest collections of Shakespeare paraphernalia.

DJs suffer common complaints

By Amy Steed
News Assistant

They're in every car and all around our homes just like they have been for years. The radio has forever been filling our lives with music, talk, and entertainment.

The Northern Virginia area has stations that appeal to all types of listeners. With music ranging from country to hip hop, all styles are represented, but listeners still have issues with their stations.

Although people listen to different types of music there is always one common complaint: "There are too many commercials," said sophomore Antoine Ware.

Despite the common assumption that DJs play commercials just because, they actually have to play them for real reasons.

"We have to air the commercials," said 98.7 DJ Paula Young. "Advertisers buy the time and that is how we make money."

Listeners find fault with more than just the commercials played on the radio. Stations can't get the new music fast enough and then when it does arrive, listeners want something different.

Morning talk shows are also an area of the radio that is bashed by some, while loved by others.

"I can't stand the annoying talk shows in the morning," said sophomore Michelle Gerth. "They are talking and there is no music."

DJs hear complaints about their shows all day. Someone wants to hear this song, while another person never wants to hear it again, but there are always the complaints that can be validated in some ways.

"The most common complaint I get is when I sing along with the songs," said DC 101 DJ Ben Issac.

Radio stations have been around since its invention and will be around for ages to come. There will always be complaints and there will always be someone trying to fix them.

Finding ways to mix the songs they play has been the most difficult problem for stations. While some stations now rely on a computer to pick their songs, other stations have more unique ways.

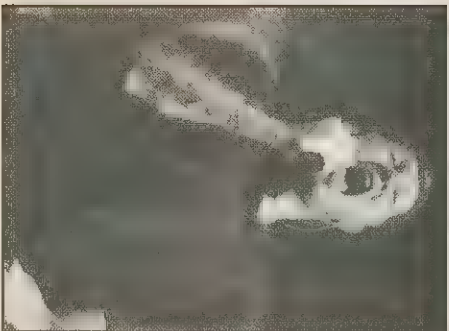
"When it comes to picking music, we've found that the emcee, meenie, minnie, mo method works pretty well," said Issac.

New music hits the airwaves this fall

By Matt Kaiz
Staff Assistant

From rock to rap, the fall season brings many new album releases.

Wu-Tang Clan is planning to release their third album "The W" on November 21. The new album will feature all nine of the members of Wu-Tang, but ODB will appear only on a few tracks



Fred Durst, of Limp Bizkit, performs one of their popular songs.

due to his jail sentence.

"I am looking forward to the new Wu-Tang album cause it is one of my favorite types of rap," said senior Greg O'Neill. "I am a little disappointed, though, that ODB will not be appearing on more tracks."

Paul Simon, who has been recording folk music for more than 30 years, released a new album titled "You're the One" during October.

Recent releases in the genres of rock and pop include Hootie & the Blowfish with "Scattered Smothered and Covered" and English pop star Robbie Williams with "Sing When You're Winning."

They did it all for the nookie in the last album, but now Limp Bizkit has steered its lyrics in a different direction. With their recent release, "The Chocolate Starfish and the Hot Dog Flavored Water," Limp Bizkit features guest appearances that include rappers such as DMX and Method Man.

"The title of the album isn't

Classic albums, classic artists continue to make waves

Despite a flurry of new music, older albums continue to sell and dominate the list of bestselling albums of all time. The list is topped by Michael Jackson's "Thriller," which recently tied The Eagles' "Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975" at 26 million albums. Jackson has sold more than 56 million albums during his career.

After those two is Pink Floyd's "The Wall," which has sold 23 million albums, Led Zeppelin's "Led Zeppelin VI" with 22 million albums, Billy Joel's "Greatest Hits Volume 1 & Volume 2" at 21 million albums, Fleetwood Mac's "Rumors" with 18 million records sold, and the Beatles' "The Beatles" (also called the White Album), which has also sold 18 million albums.

Poor writing contributes to show's demise

'SNL' skits overdone, crude

By Lauren Decot
Viewpoint Editor

If "Saturday Night Live" (SNL) were a silent series this season, I might actually laugh. The first three episodes of this 2000-2001 season were not anywhere near the caliber of humor of last year.

"The writing is poor this year. The jokes have become so dirty and that makes it that much worse. After awhile, it just gets old," said junior Judith Pulman.

"SNL" is in its 26th season this year. It can be difficult to think of fresh, new sketch ideas as time goes by, and it shows. The redundancy of skits is obvious.

"It's the same sketches over and over. It would be funny if there was more diversity," said junior Jacqueline Flood.

There have been 486 live episodes aired as of the October 7 episode. "SNL," including reruns and specials, has aired 1,666 times on NBC as of the same date.

"As 'SNL' gets older, they start to run out of good ideas. The old seasons are better, because they are more original," said freshman Valerie Vargas.

This season, two key actors left "SNL." Tim Meadows left after nine-and-a-half seasons, and Cheri Oteri left as well.

"I'm sad about Tim Meadows leaving. They only created two characters for him, and he had a lot more to offer," said Pulman.

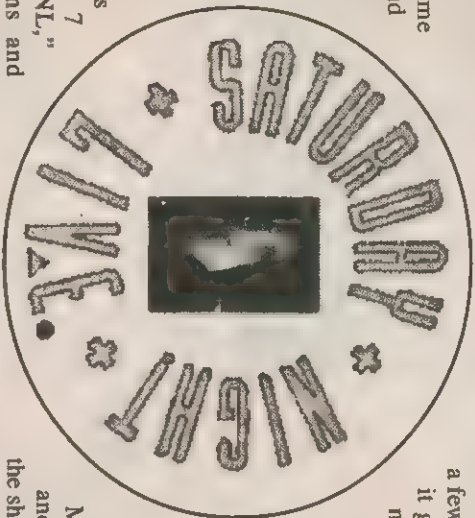
Last season was simply more exciting than this season. There was more music and more surprises.

This year, it is so predictable. The Delicious Dish that aired in October with

Besides needing a new, original script, the cast this season also contributes to its own downfall. The departures over the past few years of Meadows, Oteri, and Sandler killed the show.

Ana Gasteyer as Margaret Jo and Molly Shannon as Terri was funny, to an extent. I did laugh out loud a few times; however, it got old after two minutes.

Besides needing a new, original script, the cast this season also contributes to its downfall. The departures over the past few years of Meadows, Oteri, and Sandler killed the show.



"No one cares anymore about it since Meadows, Oteri, and Sandler left," said Flood.

However, some of last year's cast members needed to be given the boot. For example, Colin Quinn doing the news segment had grown boring.

"I'm glad they got rid of Quinn. He's just not funny. They need to get seniors Adam Colton and Steven Bassler," said senior Woody Nichols.

This season, I may still watch "SNL," but the same jokes and skits have been drilled into my head.

Maybe I'll introduce the show to my younger sister. I'm sure she'll find the jokes amusing, or at least she will the first five times hearing them.

Football is still a Thanksgiving tradition

By Laura Robinson
News Section Editor

Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks, spending time with family, and having good food.

It's also a time for NFL football. For many families, watching games on TV is a major part of their Thanksgiving tradition.

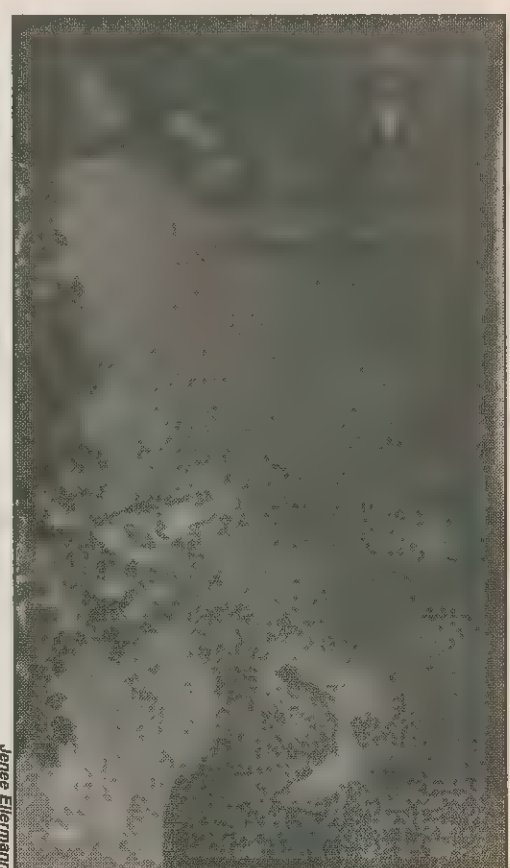
"Most of my family is guys. The girls are just me and my sister. Everyone always gathers and watches together on Thanksgiving. Sometimes there's a fight," said sophomore Katie Rice.

This year, two games will be played on Thanksgiving Day — New England at Detroit and Minnesota at Dallas.

For Cowboys fans, Thanksgiving games have become a way of life. Beginning in 1966, Dallas has missed playing on the holiday only in 1975 and 1977.

"Detroit always plays on Thanksgiving and the Cowboys usually play. My favorite team is whoever the Cowboys are playing," said basketball coach Bill Gibson.

The Detroit Lions started the tradition of NFL Thanksgiving football in 1934. With the exception of a six-season gap from 1939 to 1944, the Lions have played



Sarah Fiebig and John Callaghan watch a football game.

Janet Ellemann

A Tribe Apart investigates the flip side of adolescence

By Theresa Rupp
Managing Editor

It's not often that a book you read hits so close to home—literally. *A Tribe Apart* by Patricia Hersch was one of the two required summer reading books for AP English 12 Composition students, and one of my new favorite books.

Set 20 minutes away from us in Reston, this nonfiction book is written by following eight teenagers around and observing their everyday lives for close to two years.

After finishing the book, you truly feel like you know these kids. Each is from a different "walk of life"—a hippie, a jock, a party girl, etc.—and you could easily find someone like them at our school.

Having the book set in Reston is cool, but also a little strange. The kids go to Langston Hughes Middle School and South Lakes High School. They do things that we do like hang out or ice skate in Reston Town Center or hike in the Shenandoah Valley.

It's weird to think that you could drive past some of the kids on the street, or eat in a restaurant with them in the next booth. Most books we read for school, and probably on our own, are fictional. When you read *A*

Tribe Apart, you have to keep reminding yourself that all the people, even though the author changes their name, are real and you might in fact meet them some day.

You do end up kind of knowing these kids without ever meeting them. Hersch dives so deep into the lives of each of the eight teenagers that you feel that you can really relate and understand them.

I "know" the kids in the book more than I know some of the people I am friends with in school. This is why the book is so good—it makes you sit back and examine your life and the lives of the people you know.

This book could be really good for parents and teachers to read as well. It would make them realize that there is a lot more to teenagers today than they think, and it might make them a little more understanding.

A Tribe Apart is 375 pages, and that could be a lot for some people, but once you start reading it, you'll want to continue to find out what happens to the kids. And just like our lives, the book is full of surprises that you won't believe.



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By Roberto Garcia
Production Editor

There are three things that any guys are always looking for on a Friday or Saturday night—food, girls, and entertainment. However, when girls can't be found, then guys can have what is known as a "boys' night out."

"My primary goal on the weekends is to pick up some ladies," said sophomore Jeff Day, "but when none can be found, I can always just chill with my boys."

Food is readily available in or around the Springfield area. Although fast food is always an option, take-out or sit-in places are more popular. One of the most common places where guys can be found eating at is Glory Days Grill in Burke. Not only are affordable foods such as hamburgers, cheese fries, and chicken wings sold, but the restaurant is filled with TVs tuned into live sporting events.

"I like eating at Glory Days on Saturday nights because while you're waiting for your food, you can watch college football games on the big screen TV," said junior Jason Havinger.

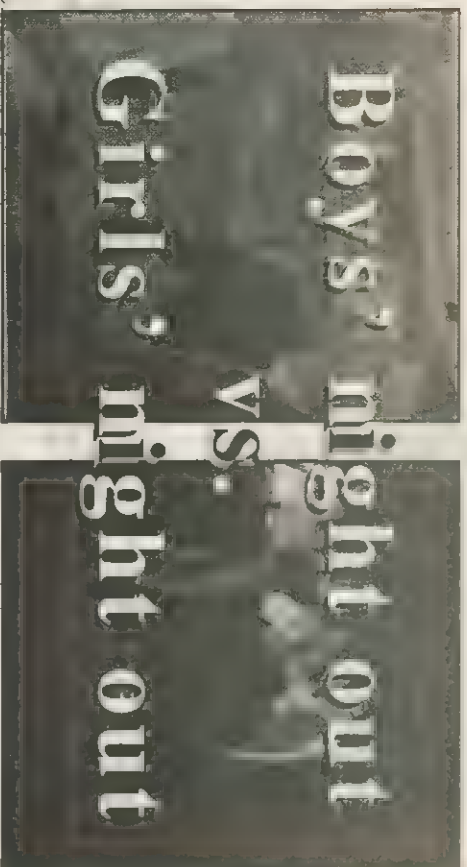
Other popular restaurants for guys in Springfield are Milano's, Victor's, and Matek's. Offering all types of food at cheap prices, these restaurants are often the beginning of a guys' only evening.

After dinner, entertainment is usually the top thing on a guy's agenda. Options include seeing a movie at Springfield Mall, going bowling at Bowl America, or just going over to someone's house. The last option is usually the most popular.

"My friend owns two very entertaining pieces of equipment—a pool table and the video game GoldenEye," said junior Bryan Witt. "I did 'Nuts' and 'Shoe' and some games of pool, followed by a few hours of GoldenEye."

Although most guys would agree that picking up girls is as fun as a night out, it's not always the case. For boys' night out with your friends.

It's not just beer and pizza in guys' friends' backyards. Some guys "do" can have fun while actually being gay.



Lauren Sheffield

Lauren Sheffield

By Jenny Askin
Production Editor

Everyone knows that girls just want to have fun. With the pressures of junior year, that is all my friends and I want. A girl's night out is key to surviving the trauma that is high school.

A typical girls night out for me is pretty simple. Most of the time my girls and I go out to eat at a local restaurant, like Glory Days. We just sit down at a table and talk and gossip about the week, sometimes we talk about boys and the many problems they cause. Most of the time we just reek havoc on the waiters and the patrons of the restaurant. After dinner, we almost always head over to good old Springfield Mall. We walk around the mall often making pit stops at American Eagle to check out the newest clothes and the male workers. Many times we run by David's Bridal or Chameleon to try on the latest threads. One time, I was with some of my friends and we actually went in to Chameleon. I tried on pink leather pants and a shiny top, it took me almost 10 minutes to put them on. My friends were going wild with all the crazy combinations of clothes. If you have never been in the store Chameleon, it's basically really cheap club clothes. One of my friends experimented with black leather pants, a snakeskin top, and a feather boa. The owner of the store was so mad at my friends, I think she started to curse at us in her native tongue. She almost threw us out.

Moving on, after looking at the clothes we head over to the movie theater. Our latest flick was "The Exorcist," an R-rated movie, since most of our friends are not 17 we had to find someone who was willing to buy us tickets. We did find this one guy, he bought us the tickets, we said thank you, and went into the theater. We ended up sitting right next to him and his girlfriend. We started talking to him, and somehow we got to the topic of "NSYNC." The guy started going off about them. He claimed that he met them and that they were total jerks. He also told us about their apparent drug use and their sexual romps with women while on tour. My friend Elizabeth Hebel was sitting right next to me, and I think she was about to cry. We were all pretty sad and but we tried to put those horrible thoughts out of our minds. I think that night traumatized Hebel. She truly could not believe that her precious "NSYNC" could be a bunch of heartless men. After that was my girls and I often head over to a friend's house to listen to music and goof off.

One time over spring break I went to junior Emily Baskin's house along with Amanda Littlepage, Adrienne Trinka, Lu O'Leary, and Elizabeth Hebel. We ended up doing a fashion show while dancing to our favorite group "NSYNC." We then headed off to Grant to purchase some whipped cream. Once we got back to Baskin's house the girls and I had a whipped cream pie fight. After pumping up our adrenaline we began to walk around the neighborhood with sidewalk chalk in hand. We ended up chalking junior Tony Soule's house. The entire driveway was covered with messages. That was truly a girls' night out.

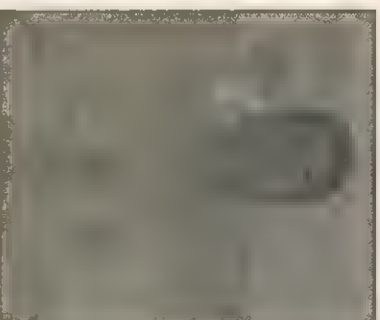
Girls need some time to let loose and have wild times. As high school goes by, the memories of parties and boys will fade, but the nights of sidewalk chalk and whipped cream will be seared in my mind forever.



Jenae Ellermann

"On the weekend, I usually just research on the internet and in books. I research subjects ranging from anti-matter to psychokinesis."

—Cody Waisanen, sophomore



Jenae Ellermann

"Put bubble bath in the big fountain at Reston Town Center."

—Hossein Khajehnouri, senior

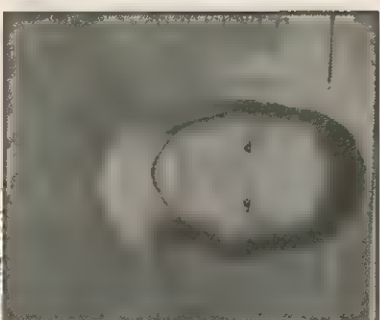


Jenae Ellermann

"I go downtown pretty often. Sometimes you can even find cool contests and concerts at the colleges in D.C. like a breakdancing contest at American University."

—Sara Benjamin, senior

What do you do on your weekend?



Jenae Ellermann

"I would recommend going for a walk in the rain. It's the best feeling in the world. So next time it rains on the weekend, run outside."

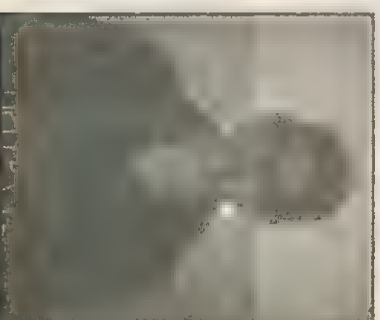
—Stephanie Sitnik, senior



Lauren Sheffield

"You can drive around until you come to the end of a road. Then turn around and go back."

—Katie Freund, junior



Jenae Ellermann

"Do your homework while watching a football game. Elaborate? How can I elaborate on doing homework?"

—Ian Millholland, sophomore

—Compiled by Caitlin Marvin



This dragonfly pin is one of the many artifacts from the Paris World Fair in 1900 showcased in the National Gallery of Art.

Spanish art flourishes at

National Gallery of Art

By Jen Schonberger
Features Editor

Jump back a century. For a little while art nouveau was the moda (fashion in Spanish) in 1900. It faded, however, as quickly as it debuted with the introduction of modern art in 1914.

Fresh from a record-breaking run at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Gallery of Art is showcasing more than 350 masterpieces in painting, sculpture, graphics, glass, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, and architecture of the Art Nouveau through January 28.

"I really enjoyed Frank Lloyd Wright," said junior John Gegen. "I also like the different countries and how they adapted to the period."

Art Nouveau was an attempt to create modern style. It flourished in cities such as Paris (where the style of architecture and design first emerged), Brussels, Vienna, Turin, Munich, New York, and Chicago.

Art nouveau strove to eliminate the inequality between high arts (paintings and sculptures) and decorative arts (chairs and dishes).

Nouveau artists turned to nontraditional sources like Japanese, Islamic, and Viking

art. Charles Darwin's publication of *Origin of Species* inspired the artists to mold vases into vegetables and explore the idea that humans are a part of nature.

This end-of-the-century era will be celebrated with an overview of objects from the World's Fair of 1900 in Paris where the style of Art Nouveau debuted.

Among the highlights being shown are a Parisian Metropolitan Entrance by Hector Guimard, a sleek tearoom from Glasgow, Scotland; a double parlor by Agostino Lauro from a villa outside of Turin; and a lamp with 18 drooping lily lights.

"The dining room table built for Frederick C. Robie featured in the Chicago room reminds me of the giant dinner table from 'The Monsters,'" said one of the gallery's guards. "I also like the stain glass and viking art."

In addition, a 15-minute film produced by the National Gallery of Art that gives an overview of the art will be shown continuously in a theater near the exhibition.

"I love going to the art gallery," said senior Matt Nelson. "I would like to see the Art Nouveau exhibit, especially after having learned about the World Fair in Paris last year in history class."

Oracle Picks

Music: Guster, "Lost and Gone Forever"

For a band that no one has ever heard of, this one sure is big. Guster is a Massachusetts-based band with an enormous cult following and heavy accumulation of critical acclaim. Their most recent album is "Lost and Gone Forever". It is filled with eclectic, catchy melodies and intricate harmonies, which combine with thought-provoking lyrics to form an undeniably solid album. Listening to this album made me a lifelong and dare I say obsessed fan of Guster, as I hope it will do to you, too. If you want information on how to buy this or another Guster CD for \$10, come to see me, I'm a rep.



Books: *The Cider House Rules*, by John Irving

The Cider House Rules is one of John Irving's most famous works, one that was just recently made into a movie. It tells the story of an orphan named Homer Wells, who is torn between finding a life for himself and living the life of his surrogate father Wilbur Larch. Irving ties the controversial subject of abortion into the novel, providing for a more contentious and ultimately more interesting story. Though I had originally bought this book to pass the time on a long plane trip, I ended up discovering a timeless masterpiece written by an incredible author.

—Compiled by Amy McKeever



Movies: "Coyote Ugly"

Sure, it may have received bad reviews from some of America's major critics, but "Coyote Ugly" wasn't really all that bad. This movie tells the story of a young woman setting out to "make it" in the music business. It features several new Leann Rimes songs, which are less country and more pop, and are actually pretty good. "Coyote Ugly" is not all about half-naked girls dancing on bars as it has been made out to be by the critics. Instead, it is the moving tale of a woman who learns to fight until the end for the things that she is passionate about.



Crafting Thanksgiving into a holiday

By Jenny Braudaway
Weekend Editor

When I was little, the staples at my family's Thanksgiving dinner included turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes—but most important were the construction paper napkin holders.

Just like putting together a costume for Halloween or decorating the tree for Christmas, crafts made up the Thanksgiving holiday for me.

This all started back in kindergarten, when I first learned about the versatility of a doctor's rubber glove. Paint the fingers red, add a beak and gobbler, and it's a 3D turkey. I went on to more creative efforts, making napkin holders out of carefully cut pieces of construction paper. Not that my family ever used napkin holders or even thought there was a purpose for them, but at Thanksgiving they were a necessity.

As I graduated from the kindergarten trailers to the main

elementary school building of Orange Hunt, the crafts became more challenging. I had to work harder to prove

my first-grader craft skills by making a set of placemats for my family. These were created from construction paper and then laminated for the "placemat effect."

The creative clutch was the placemats were to be a pilgrim's head matching each member of your family. The trick was to make it actually look like the particular family member so that they would know where to sit at the dinner table. So, for instance, if I were making the placemat for my dad, it would be a bald, male pilgrim's head. Likewise, if I were making the placemat for my mom, it would be a female

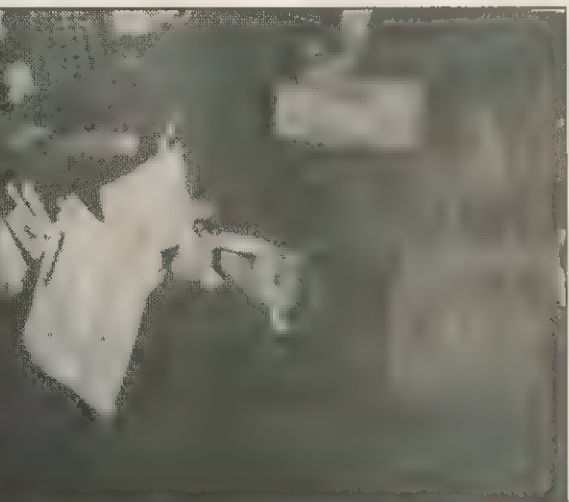
pilgrim's head with dark hair and a mustache. For

some reason, the placemats didn't turn out to be as big a hit with my

family as the napkin holders.

But these were all remedial crafts. My finest

Thanksgiving craft was



Bree Vinosko

For many, craft-making is the best part of the holidays.

as they used to. This is of course because I'm older and have neither the time nor the desire to

Just like putting together a costume for Halloween or decorating the tree for Christmas, crafts made up the Thanksgiving holiday for me.

create Thanksgiving symbols from paper and clay. But I kind of miss the way that a simple crafted turkey or pilgrim could bring me joy and add to my holiday spirit.

I think the placemats were thrown away and the cornucopia cracked and broke, but the construction paper napkin holders—they still have a lot of use left in them.

Seniors relish in their career at their teams Senior Nights

Events let seniors remember the special moments on their teams

By Jenny Askin
Production Manager

As the fall sports season comes to a close, the spotlight shines on special players.

They are players who lead their respected team, and help to form the nucleus of a squad.

Every year at the end of the sports seasons each team recognizes its seniors in an event called Senior Night. Typically, before the game, the seniors are escorted by their parents down the middle of the field or court.

Parents are often given corsages or receive small gifts in honor of their children. The seniors receive gifts made or bought by the team, in order to remember their time as a Spartan.

This year, the volleyball team had its first annual Senior Night. The precedent was set for future Senior Nights. Emily Smolen, Farryl Mishkin and Lauren Sheffield received flowers and gifts from the other members of the team.

"I thought they deserved it. Our



Senior volleyball player Farryl Mishkin goes up for a spike against Annandale during regionals.

seniors worked really hard this year. They did so much for us. They helped start the volleyball tradition. Senior Night was the least we could do for them," said junior

volleyball player Danielle Glanzmann. Many seniors are very sentimental and even emotional about their special night. This year the field hockey team

celebrated its first victory the same night as Senior Night.

"It was pretty emotional; a couple of the girls were crying. It was pretty ironic that we won our first game on Senior Night," said senior field hockey player Bridget Mahoney.

Usually it is the underclass members of the teams along with the parents of the seniors and the rest of the team who end up organizing the Senior Nights for the players.

Junior Kerry Ryan organized the special occasion for the field hockey team. Ryan, along with other members of the team, decorated the field with large amounts of banners and balloons. Ryan also made picture collages for each of the seniors.

A week before Homecoming, the football team along with the cheerleaders and band members had Senior Night. Before the opening kickoff each senior was escorted down the field and was presented to the home crowd.

"It was really special. It was a nice way to end my years of football at WS,"

Fall teams end with average seasons

By Roberto Garcia
Production Editor

After a number of triumphs, several disappointments, and hours of hard work, fall sports teams brought their seasons to a close. Despite their efforts, most WS teams had average seasons.

After losing its top six players to graduation, the girls' tennis team struggled throughout the whole season. The team ended 0-12, but with a large number of underclassmen players, the team has high hopes for the future.

"This was definitely a rebuilding year," said junior Jaqueline Flood. "However, we have tons of new players, which should improve in the years to come."

WS's first ever volleyball had a surprisingly strong season. Despite getting off to an 0-7 start, the team rebounded and ended with a 6-11 record. The team finished fourth in districts and advanced to regionals. However, they lost to Fairfax in the first round of the tournament, ending their first season.

"No one expected us to do anything," said sophomore Michelle Anderson. "However, after we learned

basic coverage, we started winning. We and surprised many teams in the area."

The girls' cross country team struggled after losing three varsity runners to graduation. After a string of several mediocre performances at meets in Charlotte, Charlottesville, and Delaware, the team finished a disappointing sixth in the district race. However, junior Maureen Hagan finished 8th individually, being named an all-district runner, and advancing to the regional race.

"We lost two all-state runners to graduation, so we lacked experience," said Hagan.

The boys' cross country team had a much stronger season. At meets in Delaware and Georgetown Prep, the varsity team finished third and second, respectively. At districts, they finished in third place, advancing to the regional race. At that race, the boys finished in sixth place, missing the state competition by a margin of four points. Individually, seniors Greg Gunn and Raf Stottienyer, as well as junior James Feehey and sophomore Jeff Day received all-district honors. By finishing in seventh at the regional race, Feehey qualified to run at the states.



Bree Vrookso

Led on defense by Brian McIlain, the football team improved to 4-6 this season. "It was very disappointing not making states," said senior Matt Kirk. "Especially since we lost by such a small margin."

With only five regular season matches, the golf team had a decent season. The team finished with a 2-2-1 record, and placed fourth in the district tournament. Senior Scott Struck had a successful season, finishing third individually in the district from non-qualifying teams and fifth overall.

"Seeing Scott make regionals was a very proud moment for the team," said golf coach Sue Spatcher. "He worked very hard to get there."

The field hockey team also had a less than stellar season. Despite having a successful showing at the "Under the Lights" tournament, the team ended the season with a 3-13-1 record. The season

"Although we lost to Lake Braddock, we were one of three teams to score a goal on them all season," said junior Emily Finerfrock. "That's something to be proud of."

Showing improvement over last season, the football team finished with a record of 4-6. They surprised many coaches by shutting out their first two opponents, but they lost some crucial games against district opponents. They earned their last win of the season with a surprising 14-7 victory at Annandale.

"We beat Annandale during their homecoming game," said junior Jamie Langley. "It was a huge victory for us because they hadn't lost their homecoming game in over 20 years."

Film companies cash in on loyal followings of sports movies

By Mike Araj
Sports Assistant

From baseball diamonds cut from fields to hustling basketball players to a young man trying to get onto his family's favorite football team, all these movies have at least one thing in common—they are all popular sports movies.

Field of Dreams, an inspirational movie about a man who follows advice from a voice and then carves out a baseball diamond in his crop fields, is one favorite sports movie.

Another favorite is *Rudy*. The movie is about a boy who always gives his all in trying to achieve his goal of playing football for Notre Dame. Through Rudy's character, it is shown that dreams can come true if you always do your best.

A sports movie that was also very popular recently is *Remember the Titans*, a movie about the true story of TC William's high school being integrated and how the football team overcame racism and discrimination to win every game of the season.

One sports movie that is also well liked is *White Men Can't Jump*. The comedy starred Woody Harrelson and Wesley Snipes as a basketball duo who hustled other

players on the streets of Los Angeles.

Most sports movies are popular for many reasons. Some think it is because of our competitive nature.

"[Most sports movies are popular] because we are a competitive nation. Sports bring a competitive edge in us," said girls basketball coach Bill Gibson.

Many of these movies use the sport as a metaphor for life or other major themes. For example, in *Field of Dreams*, old players come back and reunite the present and the past through baseball.



Bill Murray's goal in the cult sports movie *Caddyshack*, is to catch a gopher that is causing havoc on his golf course.

Other sports movies are popular because they attract a certain crowd. For example, many cheerleaders went to see *Bring It On*, a movie about a high school cheerleading team that competes with another in a national championship.

"[My favorite sports movie is] *The Program*. It's a good football movie," said junior Jeremy Kapinos, who is also the punter for the football team. [Most sports movies are popular] because a lot of people can relate to them."



Winter sports look to build on success from last season

By Myles Curran
Sports Editor

After months and months of practice, the winter sports teams are now ready to show if all the practice paid off.

Since winning two state championships in three years from 1996-98, the girls basketball team continues to re-build. Two starters are gone from the team that went 21-6 a year ago and finished second in the district

behind Robinson.

"We had such a hole to fill last year with Kara [Lawson] graduating," said coach and marketing teacher Bill Gibson. "I was happy with the teams performance last year. We should continue to get better this year."

Although the team lost two starters, juniors Leia Roach and Selia Monroe, along with seniors Ginny Horner, Katie Hammerer

and Meghan Ogilvie should carry the team to a productive season.

Both boys and girls swim and dive teams had good but not great seasons last year, but both teams have improved going into the season. Having finished 4-3 last year, and only losing one star senior, the boys team looks to have a much better record this season. The same is true for the girls team as junior Katie Trahan and senior Erin Zoller look to lead the team to a district title.

"We have very experienced teams this year," said junior swimmer Matt Flanagan. "All of the experience we have should lead to a very successful season."

Both the boys and girls track teams are confident going into the season. Although the boys team lost three of their four runners from the All-State 4x800 relay team, distance running should be very strong for the boys team, which has cross country standout James Feeney returning.

Junior Selia Monroe is expected to be a key player for the basketball team this year.

There are high expectations for seniors Carly Estes and Maya Witten, as well as junior Maureen Hagan on the girls side. Both short and long distance events should be a strong point for the girls team.

"I'm really looking forward to this season," said junior James Feeney. "I think both teams should be great, so I'm real excited for this season."

After another mediocre season last year, the boys



Oracle File Photo

Skate parks grow in popularity with WS students

By Clint Crosier
Business Systems Editor

When area skaters look for a bigger thrill than the fallen-down stop sign, they often head out to skate parks. Skate parks offer unique challenges and obstacles for skaters looking to pull off some crazy tricks.

"I like going to skate parks because they offer a wider variety of stuff than street skating, and you get to meet skilled skaters," said sophomore Mike Domina.

Most skate parks offer verts, ramps, and usually at least one street course. Two major skate parks in the area are Vans Skate Park in Woodbridge, and Cactonin Circle Skate Park in Leesburg. Almost all skate parks require visitors to wear safety pads and helmets.

Vans Skate Park is an indoor, 61,000 square foot park composed of concrete verts and bowls. Vans Skate Park includes three street courses based on skill level. The price of admission is \$15 for two hours. There is also a Vans Skate Park retail store, where pads and helmets may be rented.

Another Northern Virginia skate park is Cactonin Circle Skate Park, which is not quite as big as Vans Skate Park and only has one street course. However, Cactonin Circle also has fewer visitors and may not be quite so crowded. Cactonin Circle beats Vans Skate Park in the area of price though, charging only \$5 for the entire day.



Lauren Sheffield
People skate at Vans State Park in Woodbridge, which has become a popular hangout for WS students.

"I like going to skate parks because they offer a wider variety of stuff than street skating, and you get to meet skilled skaters."

—Sophomore Mike Domina

However, the high price does turn some skaters away from the park and so does the fact that increased popularity brings hordes of younger skaters.

"Vans has too many froot-booters and little kids, plus it's too expensive," said freshman Alex Pines.

If the high prices and big crowds of Vans Skate Park are a turnoff, then Cactonin Circle Skate Park is a good, if somewhat less exciting alternative. Meanwhile, some skaters search for more adventurous entertainment, even if it means paying a greater price.

"I wish they'd allow scooters," said freshman Scott Clapsaddle. "I'd tear it up on my fly Razor."

Cheerleaders advance to state competition

By Amy Whipple
Oracle Editor

The WS cheerleading squad placed 3rd in the Patriot District. Four days later they placed 3rd in the northern region, becoming the only squad from the district to advance to the state competition.

WS will accompany Chantilly, McLean, and Langley to the March 24 competition in Richmond.

"I couldn't believe it," said senior Patti Woods. "We've been working for this since our freshmen year, and we finally made it."

This is the first time the cheerleaders have made it into the second round of regionals, let alone to the state competition. To celebrate, the cheerleaders are getting new blue uniforms.

"The uniforms we have now are like puke orange," said freshman Kara Hinrich.

"They take away from our overall look."

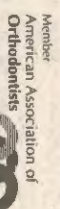
The cheerleaders are required to stay on the squad through basketball season, leaving less space for those who wished to tryout the week after the regional competition. The three new people accepted to the squad are now alternates for the state competition.

The squad's tumbling ability aided them in both districts and regionals. Most schools only had five or less tumblers with roundoff backtucks, but WS had ten.

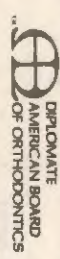
"Tumbling makes us look sharper," said sophomore Courtney Uram. "I think that's what gave us the advantage over other schools."

The cheerleaders are trying to get a spirit bus to accompany them to Richmond as have other sports in years past.

"It was exciting to see," said senior Steven Scott. "I hope they do just as well at states."



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WS CLUBS

By Eunice Han
Oracle Staff Writer

•WS's It's Academic! team appeared on Channel 4 in September, and won the match against Saint Albans and Mount Vernon.

"I was really surprised and glad we won," said senior Myung Lee. The team will compete again in the spring, and appear again on TV March 3. Sponsor Sandra Novak says It's Academic plans other competitions as well.

•The Latin Club is planning a Toga Car Wash. Stay tuned for details.

•The French Honor Society inducted new members October 24. Among service projects planned for this year, club members will tutor other French students after school.



Aaron Elliot, Myung Lee, Ethan Greenblatt and Sandra Novak of It's Academic! won their first-round competition.

•After two inactive years, Quill & Scroll, the journalism honor society, held an organizational meeting in October. The group inducted 14 new members November 15 and plans to start tutoring Journalism I students.

•The Olympian, The Oracle and Symposium won first-place honors at the Virginia High School League competition

October 31 at VCU in Richmond.

•The Keyettes cleaned up WS's parking lot Homecoming morning and plan a bake sale in support of the charity for Shaken Baby Syndrome. "We wanted to do an outside service project that could benefit the community. Not many people know about it but it's really important," president Maggie Miller said

Plymouth Rock Favorites

Pilgrim's

Punch

- 2 large cans of frozen lemonade
- 2 liters of diet ginger ale
- 1 package frozen raspberries

Mix 1 can of lemonade with specified amount of water and freeze in jello mold or bunt pan. In punch bowl, combine frozen lemonade mold and remaining ingredients. Best served 1/2 hour after being assembled.

Edible Turkey

Centerpiece

- 1 apple
- toothpicks
- construction paper
- markers, scissors, glue
- candy orange slices or Dots

Put two toothpicks into the bottom of the apple to act as the legs. Create the head of the turkey out of construction paper, cut out, and glue to a toothpick. Insert the toothpick into one side of the apple. On the other side of the apple, create a fan tail with toothpicks. Decorate these toothpicks with candy. Dots and orange slices work well. Be colorful, creative, and have fun.

Ma's Thanksgiving Pumpkin Pie

- 2 Cups cooked pumpkin
- 1 Cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 t. nutmeg
- 1 Cup evaporated milk
- 1/2 t. ginger
- 1/2 t. salt
- uncooked pie shell



Mix all ingredients together and place in uncooked pie shell. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes, then at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.



Senior Caitlin Marvin displays her opinion of the Thanksgiving turkey in 1987, her sister, sophomore Lisa Marvin, smiles for the camera.

Family Photo

—Compiled by Katie Walker

Oracle Flashback ... a look back in time

November 1995

—WS students connect to the Internet through the Tri-School Network.

—Documentary filmmaker and Oscar-winner Charles Guggenheim visits Jim Peroco's Applied History class.

—Local candidates, Dave Albo and Mark Cecelski, visit for the WS campaign



Charles Guggenheim visits WS.

November 1991

—The school-day schedule went from six periods to seven.

—WS students protested the parking fee of \$100 at a school board meeting.

—A new tobacco law prohibits use for all minors.

—Parents and students upset because proposed budget cuts could eliminate popular WS courses.

TOP 10

Things to do with leftovers

By Caitlin Marvin
& Theresa Rupp
Oracle Managing Editors

Give them to the cafeteria ladies and for once have a good cafeteria lunch.

Make a portrait of your favorite art teacher with yams. Hint--use raisins for the eyes.

Play an old fashioned drinking game, and this time use the sparkling cider.

Instead of feeding them to your pet dog, let your fish, gerbil, or snake join the fun.

Strain the green beans and open a new line of Thanksgiving baby food.

Dry out the cranberry sauce slices and make Christmas ornaments.

Freeze the rolls and use them as snowballs next month.

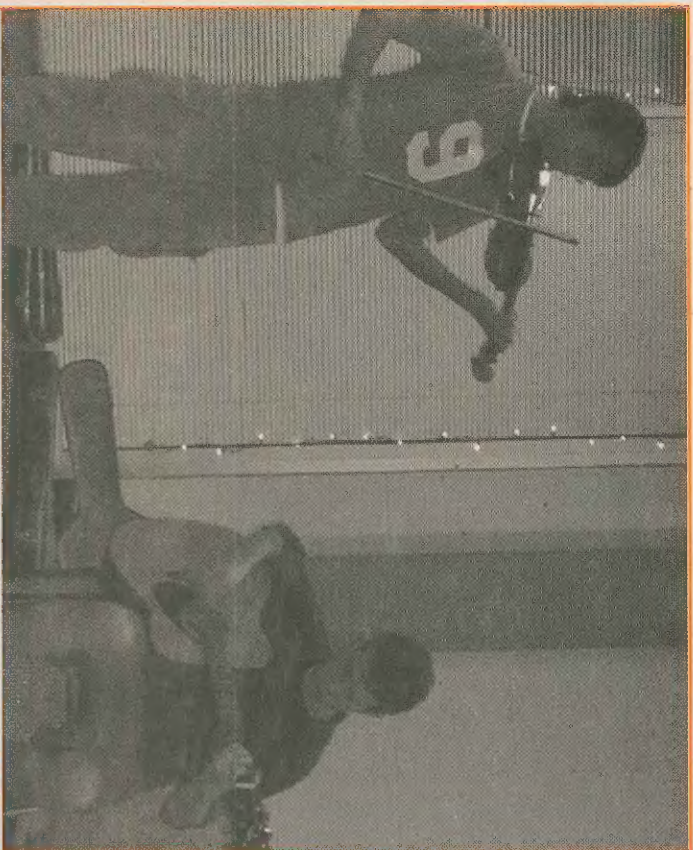
Strip and see if you can cover your whole body with the leftovers. Use gravy as an adhesive.

Do like the boys on "Jackass" and take your old neighbor to the taxidermist to get filled with stuffing.

Make grandpa take out his dentures and slurp the mashed potatoes as fast as he can.





Oracle poll on seven-period day.




Amy Whipple

Spartan Focus
Woodson graduate Matt Sapienza and senior Nate Dickenson play "Carol of the Bells" at the Symposium coffee house on November 9. The coffee house is the top fundraiser for the school's literary magazine. Forty-five students attended and they earned about \$100. There will be another coffee house in the spring.

Days until graduation...


Seniors: You only have...
214 days left of high school! (for most of you, at least)


Juniors-only 436 days left!


Hey sophomores! you have the privilege of being a WS student for 658 more days!

Dear Freshmen: You get to be at WS for 880 more days! Have fun!

Mystery Person

Who is this 'masked' man?

By Katie Walker
Production Editor

Our mystery man is a junior at WS who loves to play the guitar and sing. He is in a band and hopes to be a rock star someday. You might see him playing with his band at Starbucks, Borders, Jaxx, or the Occoquan Coffee House.

If you haven't ventured out that far, you've probably heard him playing on the afternoon announcements or at some school-sponsored event. Around the neighborhood you have a good chance of spying him cruising around in his red truck with only one highlight, playing the music of his favorite

musicians: Dave Matthews, Phish, Moe., and Ben Harper.

This mystery man is a three-year member of the Key Club and the treasurer of the Frisbee Golf Club. His least favorite subject is chemistry, and his favorite teacher is Keith Owens, though he loves the WS administration as well.

You might recall him as a Mr. Spartan representative his freshman year. Examine the photo, read over the clues, and see if you can uncover the identity of the mystery person!



This mystery man is a three-year member of the Key Club and the treasurer of the Frisbee Golf Club.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2000

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 Fall sports awards 7 p.m. On this day in 1910: Leo Tolstoy dies at the age of 82.	21 AP teachers/departments chairs meeting—2:30, Spartan Hall. Jazz Ensemble—7:30 p.m.	22 Two-hour early closing! 37th anniversary of Kennedy Assassination—November 22, 1963.	23 Thanksgiving Holiday—School closed!	24 Yearbooks on sale during lunch—\$55 (checks only)! Fall Play—"You Can't Take It With You"—7:30 p.m. Nixon tells nation, "I am not a crook!" (1973)	25 Fall Play—"You Can't Take It With You"—2 p.m. matinee & 7:30 p.m. performance
Community of Caring 27 (Spartan Hall) all day. FBLA candy sale (all week). Art poster sale (all week). Face-to-Face Program for English 12 students	28 Wellness Flu shots (all day). Face-to-Face Program for English 12 students.	29	30	17 December 1 Boys b-ball vs. Edison—7 p.m. Girls b-ball @ Edison—7 p.m. Swim & Dive vs. Robinson @ Lee District—8:30 p.m.	18 Track & Field meet 2 @ Episcopal vs. TC, TJ, Lee, Marshall—7:30 a.m.
4 Submit to Symposium! Room 213!	5 Boys b-ball @ Langley—Frost, 4 p.m.; JV, 5:45 p.m., V, 7:30 p.m. Girls b-ball vs. Langley—Frost, 4 p.m.; JV, 5:45 p.m., V, 7:30 p.m.	6 Guitar Coffee House—3:30-8:30 p.m. Japanese Club candy sale (all week). DECA Coffee Bar 6-4:5a.m. (all month).	7 Girls Gymnastics vs. Potomac Falls, Marshall—7 p.m. 59th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor—December 7, 1941.	8 Half-day for students! Boys b-ball vs. Mt. Vernon—Frost, 4 p.m.; JV, 5:45 p.m., V, 7:30 p.m.; Girls b-ball @ Mt. Vernon—Frost, 4 p.m., JV, 5:45 p.m., V, 7:30 p.m. Swim & Dive vs. LB @ Lee District—6 p.m.	9 Track & Field meet 2 @ Episcopal vs. TC, TJ, Chantilly—7:30 a.m. On this day in 1804—Napoleon becomes 1st French emperor SATs Swim & Dive vs. Annandale @ Lee District—6 p.m.
Teachers, students, clubs, sports, organizations (both in-school and out)—Do you have an event you wish to put on the Oracle calendar? Write it down, and drop it by Room 215!				14 Last Oracle of the year! Yearbooks on sale during lunch—\$55 (checks only)!	16